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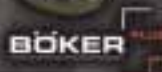
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Left: Current MoD issue Meindl (left) and HAIX Desert Combat High Liability boots worn by Royal Marines in Albania [© Bob Morrison]

Comms

As regular readers of C&S will be aware, in August 2009 UK MoD advertised a forthcoming requirement for combat boots in six distinct categories, though by the time orders commenced the Jungle Boot category had been extracted. These new contracts were intended to cover combat boot requirements for a four year period and the first of the orders were placed in late 2012 for initial roll-out in 2013. Now one does not need to have Professor Stephen Hawking's brainpower to work out that the current four year contract must be drawing to a close, so it should be no surprise that the UK DE&S (Defence Equipment & Support) Defence Clothing team have started the ball rolling to try to ensure deliveries of sufficient stocks of new combat boots for the Armed Forces are in place by July 2017.

Without question the current (i.e. 2013 issue) batches of brown combat boots have given the British Army, Royal Marines and RAF Regiment some of the best off-the-shelf footwear ever issued, so one might ask why MoD is not simply placing fresh orders rather than going through an expensive and time-consuming trials and procurement process. The simple answer is that these days government departments are constrained by EU legislation intended to prevent institutionalised corruption and favouritism etc. and, unlike

some of her NATO partners, the United Kingdom has a tendency to scrupulously follow EU tender procedures rather than claiming exemptions to protect national jobs and manufacturing.

Back in March a total of 37 national and overseas companies (including all current suppliers) interested in tendering for the next UK Ministry of Defence contracts for combat boots attended the DE&S Footwear Industry Day to receive briefings. Subsequently DE&S despatched a formal notice on 12th May announcing: "This is a requirement for the supply of 5 types of combat footwear. It will be tendered as 5 separate lots, 2 choices of boots will be selected for lots 1 and 2 and 1 choice of boot for lots 3, 4 and 5. Up to 7 year (configured as an initial 5 year period plus 2 year option) framework agreements could be awarded."

The five required lots are:-

- Combat High Liability Boot (300,000 pairs)
- Desert Combat High Liability Boot (90,000 pairs)



Current MoD issue Alt-Berg Combat High Liability boots worn by a British Army tank crewman [© Bob Morrison]

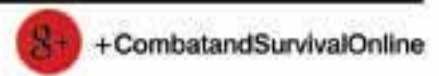
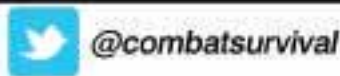
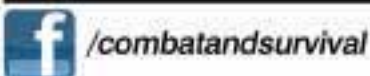
DEFEND

- Cold Wet Weather Boot (150,000 pairs)
- Jungle Boot (42,000 pairs)
- Patrol Boot (190,000 pairs)

It is no major surprise that the Desert Patrol category has been dropped this time around, as the proven Desert Combat High Liability Boot and the Patrol Boot categories should suffice. What is worrying, however, is the lack of boot choice which will be offered in categories 3, 4 and 5. In theory any serviceman or servicewoman currently entitled to the issue of combat boots should be able to choose one of two styles manufactured on lasts of different shapes to, hopefully, ensure the wearing of boots which best fit them; we say hopefully, as we know the only choice some were given was effectively 'take this make or take now'. Also rather worrying is the decision that a Reverse Auction process will not occur, which could mean tenderers do not submit their best performing products safe in the knowledge that competitive pricing would be determined at a later stage once the highest performance boots had been determined. We will be watching this one with great interest.

ONLINE SURVEY

While on the subject of boots, to thank readers for participating in our 2015 Online Survey, in conjunction with Alt-Berg the Yorkshire Bootmakers we are putting everyone's name into a draw and one lucky entrant will win a pair of His & Hers trekking or combat boots of choice. The boots on offer from Alt-Berg are either the Yan Tan, from their Walking Boots range, or the Base Boot, which is its Military derivative in MoD Brown. Both boots are manufactured on Alt-Berg's new ergonomic A-Forme last, which master bootmaker Mike Sheehan has spent many years refining. C&S gear tester Mike Gormley, who has massive feet that often defeat other boot manufacturers, swears by his Yan Tans, as does his petite better half Jean, who accompanies him on his many expeditions. As for the Base Boot, I have worn this model, through choice, on many of my assignments to date this year. It is therefore safe to say these more asymmetric A-Forme last boots carry our recommendation. For full specifications go to altberg.co.uk and to enter the survey go to combatandsurvival.com/survey2015 - BM



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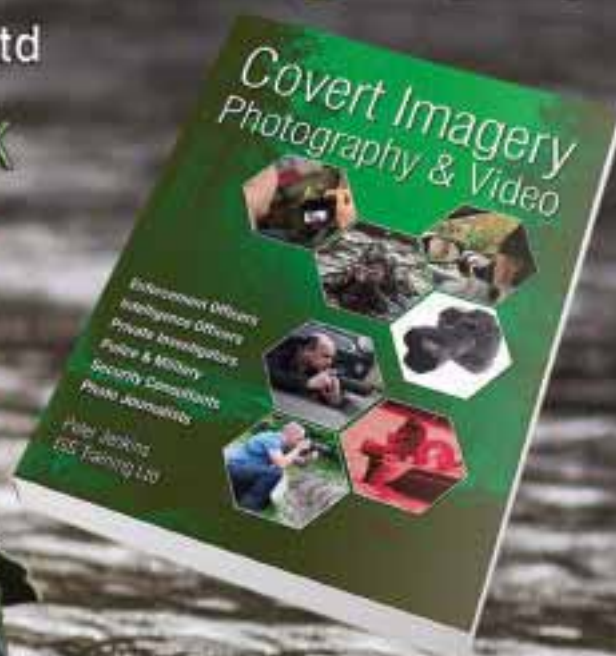
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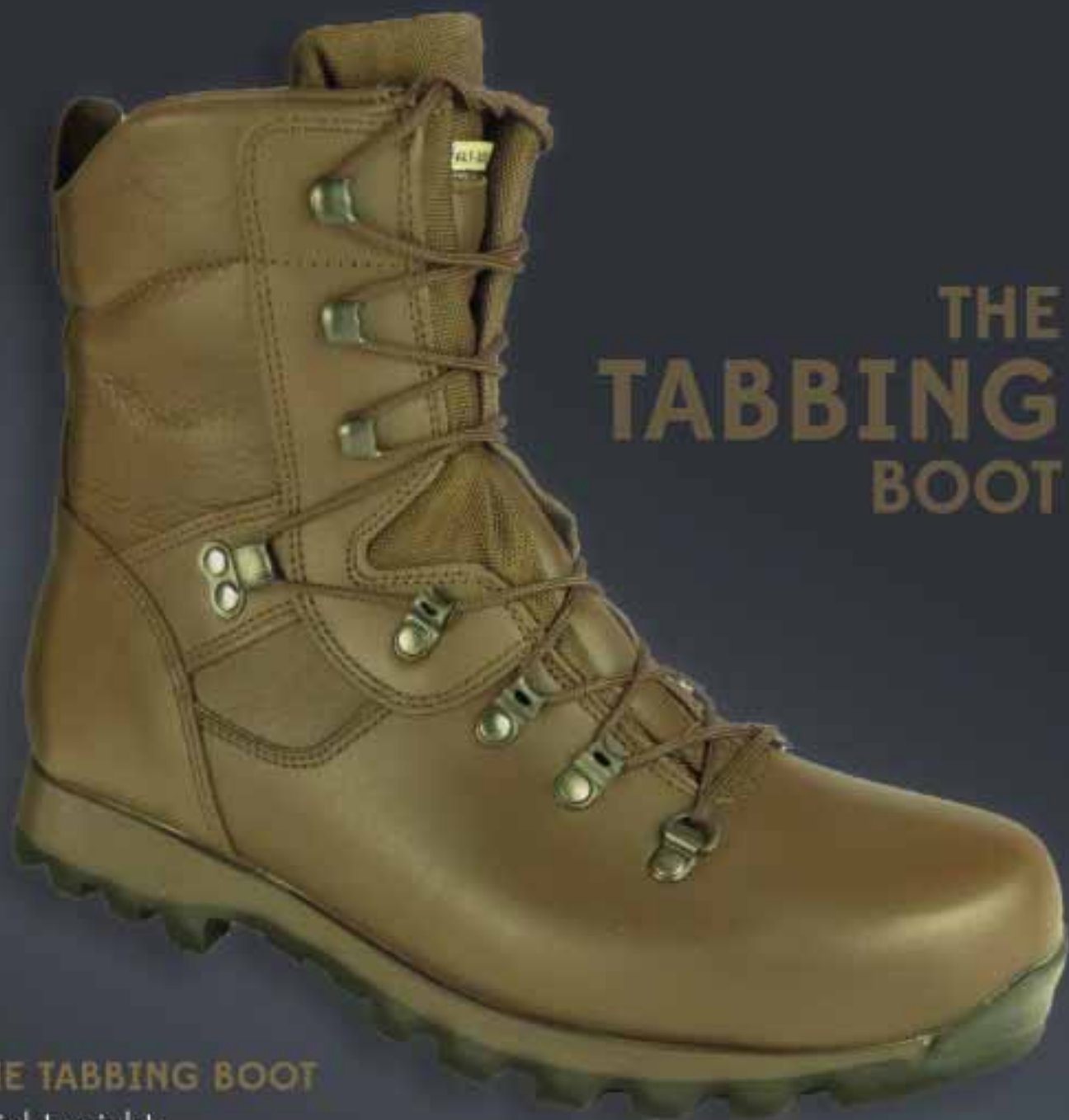
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British Forces

09:15 hours, 18th
April, Objective
Bronze: A
section of British
paratroopers
covered by rapid
fire laid down
by colleagues
crosses a road into
Freedom Village
on Fort Bragg
Training Area

UK AIR MANOEUVRE BATTLE GROUP

3 PARA Deploy On CJOAX 15-1

Report & Images by Carl Schulze



The participation of a British Air Manoeuvre Battle Group on the Combined Joint Operational Access Exercise 15-01 (CJOAX 15-1) of the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division 'All American' was a major step forward in the process of establishing full interoperability between US and UK airborne forces. Over two weeks in April C&S followed the exercise, held at the Fort Bragg Training Area in North Carolina and in this third article in the series we look at the British units involved in the largest bilateral airborne exercise held in the States for nearly 20 years.

O 8:06 18th April 2015, Freedom Village, Fort Bragg Training Area: "Fire!" bellows the Sergeant from the fire support element of B Company, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. A split second later his paratroopers lay down a heavy barrage of rapid fire, pinning down the enemy fighters in their positions with their 5.56mm L110A2 Minimi Light Machine Guns and 7.62mm L7A2 General Purpose Machine Guns.

Under the covering fire the assault

Main Image: British paratroopers of the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment move down the flight line at Pope Army Airfield prior to boarding US Air Force C-130J Hercules transport aircraft for a training jump

1: As part of the Interoperability Training British Paras jumped with the US T-11 Personnel Parachute System - here some can be seen exiting from a US Air Force C-130J Hercules transport aircraft

Images © Carl Schulze

1



force begins its attack on the village, a well-fortified complex of buildings that serves as an enemy training camp. Straight away a section of paratroopers, weapons in the ready position, heads for a window in one of the nearest buildings, which had previously been selected as their break-in point. On reaching the building the Paras stack up to the left of the window, then a hand grenade is thrown into the room behind.

Seconds later a loud explosion and a bright flash of light emerge from the window. Now a Para fires a burst into the room with his 5.56mm SA80 A2 TES assault rifle, peppering it with bullets. Immediately after this he climbs through the window into the building, followed by his comrades in quick succession. A shout can be heard from inside: "Door to the front, two enemy dead, room clear!" The Paras have created a foothold in the first building of the village and this will now be exploited in order to clear the

whole area from the enemy.

The attack on the Freedom Village MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) complex was the final combat action of CJOAX 15-01. Early that morning B and C Companies of the 3rd Battalion of The Parachute Regiment (3 PARA) had conducted a ground infiltration and then opened the attack by assaulting Objectives Silver and Gold. With the first attacks under way, A Company conducted a heliborne assault to the west of Freedom Village and closed in on foot to attack Objective Bronze. This attack was supported by a second heliborne assault, during which D Company of 1st Battalion from 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division of the US Army was inserted by CH-47F Chinook transport helicopters and UH-60M Black Hawk utility helicopters, landing directly on the objective.

When conducted in April 2015 the



CJOAX 15-01 was the largest US/UK British airborne exercise for nearly 20 years since Exercise PURPLE STAR was conducted in 1996. One of the main aims of the latest exercise, of which the field training phase took place between the 13th and 19th April, was to improve the interoperability between US and UK airborne forces in order to allow British assets to seamlessly integrate within the 82nd Airborne Division and the US Army's Global Response Force and for US assets to integrate with 16 Air Assault Brigade, a core element of the British Army's high readiness Reactive Force.

3RD BATTALION, THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

Some 850 British troops from 16 Air Assault Brigade participated in CJOAX 15-01 and the bulk of these, around 620, were provided by the 3 PARA. This battalion deployed to the USA its Battle Group Main HQ, Tactical HQ, A, B and C Company, Support Company (including Mortar Platoon, Machinegun Platoon, Anti-Tank Platoon and Fire Support Group 1), ISTAR Company (including Patrols Platoon and Sniper Platoon) and an Echelon of Support Company. The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel

Above: UK and US paratroopers land on Sicily Drop Zone of the Fort Bragg Training Area - jumping with the T-11 earned the British Army Paras the US Army Parachutist Badge, also known as Jump Wings

Right: Paratroopers armed with a 5.56mm L110A2 LMG and a 7.62mm L7A2 GPMG await the order to provide cover fire to support their comrades assaulting a building in Freedom Village

Below: British paratroopers fight their way into Freedom Village during the final attack of CJOAX 15-01 - note they wear US Tactical Engagement System sensor harnesses and helmet bands

Mike Shervington, provided the core of the British AMBG (Air Manoeuvre Battle Group) as well as its command element.

During the exercise the AMBG fell under command of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 'Falcons' of the 82nd



Airborne Division 'All American'. The battlegroup also comprised a long range reconnaissance asset, provided by the Pathfinder Platoon, a 100-strong Engineer Group provided by 51 Parachute Squadron of 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment and a 40-strong Artillery Group provided by F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery from 7th Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. The latter was equipped with 105mm L118 Light Guns and included Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC) and a Joint Fires and Influence Cell (JFIC).

Close air defence for the AMBG was provided by Strike Troop of 12 (Minden) Air Assault Battery from 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, equipped with the Starstreak High Velocity Missile

(HVM) system in the light role configuration; we will feature this Troop in a future issue. Logistic support for the formation was provided by a 40-strong element of 82 Air Assault Squadron and 47 Air Despatch Squadron from 13 Air Assault Support Regiment Royal Logistics Corps. Medical support for the formation was provided by 19 Medical Squadron of 16 Medical Regiment.

A 50-soldiers strong Air Delivery Group also operated as part of the AMBG. Provided mainly by 47 Air Despatch Squadron Royal Logistic Corps, it included Parachute Jump Instructors (PJI) and Drop Zone Safety Staff, among other personnel. Also part of the battlegroup were elements of Headquarters 16 Air Assault Brigade, the Defence Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Wing, the Royal Air Force Regiment, 33 Engineer Regiment



(Explosive Ordnance Disposal), 14 Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare), 7 Air Assault Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 216 (Parachute) Signal Squadron, 4th Battalion (Reserve) The Parachute Regiment and 156 Provost Company from 4th Regiment Royal Military Police.

WHEELED VEHICLES

A total of 57 light wheeled vehicles was deployed with the British troops. This number included: Yamaha Grizzly 450 IRS Quads with trailers; Jackal 1 High Mobility Weapons Platforms; Pinzgauer Truck Utility Medium/Heavy Duty (TUM/HD) 4x4 and 6x6 prime movers; Land Rover 90 XD Wolf

Wearing General Service Respirators soldiers of the 3rd (green TRF) and 4th Battalions (black TRF) and RAMC (maroon/ navy blue/ yellow TRF) prepare to enter a suspected chemical weapons factory



Truck Utility Light High Specification (TUL HS) and 110 XD Wolf Truck Utility Medium High Specification (TUM HS). Some of the Pinzgauers and the deployed 105mm L118 Light Guns were parachute dropped during the field training phase of CJOAX 15-01 from C-17 Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules transport aircraft of the USAF using US air drop pallets, parachutes and rigging equipment.

INTEROPERABILITY TRAINING AT ALL LEVELS

For the British troops, participation on CJOAX 15-01 was an eight week deployment that, for the bulk of them, began on the 9th March when they arrived at Fort Bragg, the home base of the 82nd Airborne Division. On their arrival the troops were put through a Reception, Staging, Onward movement, and Integration (RSOI) package straight away, just as if entering a conflict theatre. This included, among other training, lessons on local laws and customs

Above: A British paratrooper provides cover fire with his 5.56mm L110A2 Light Machine Gun while his comrades storm a building after conducting a heliborne assault

Right: UK medics train to apply medical assistance while operating aboard a US Army UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter - a British MERT (Medical Emergency Response Team) closely cooperated with US medics

as well as on the US Army and 82nd Airborne Division structures and procedures and on the Global Response Force (GRF) in particular.

Together with their US Airborne comrades from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 'Falcons', the British paratroopers then began to conduct interoperability training at all levels. As part of this, most of the British paratroopers went through the Advanced Airborne School at Fort Bragg, participating in T-11 Sustained Airborne Training and conducting jumps with the new US parachute (see feature in last month's issue) from C-17 Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules transport aircraft.

The airborne infantry companies of 3 PARA together with US paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion, 325th AIR conducted small unit collective training at section and platoon level. This training was intended to familiarise the troops of the two nationalities with each other's tactics as well as to foster comradeship. A number of firing packages on the ranges of Fort Bragg Training Area were part of the training and ranged from the zeroing of weapons to section and platoon level live-fire attacks. The troops also trained in FIBUA (fighting in built-up areas), or MOUT in US parlance, including entering

buildings and clearing rooms.

US medical personnel trained the British paratroopers in medical drills and reporting procedures they use on operations. This training was followed by a battle run through the pine woods of the Ford Bragg Training Area paint-ball range, which saw the British paratroopers crossing obstacles and treating simulated casualties while constantly under enemy fire. At the same time the UK and US commanders conducted familiarisation training that made them aware of each other's SOPs (standard operational procedures) and was aimed at



developing common standing operational procedures.

The Gunners of F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery from 7th Parachute Regiment (7 PARA) RHA trained with their counterparts of the 2nd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery Regiment. Again interoperability was the main focus of the training which, for example, saw the British airborne gunners operating US 105mm M119A3 light towed howitzers, which is the latest shorter barrelled US-produced version of the British L118 Light Gun.

British drivers were trained to handle different types of vehicles in service with the US Army, such as the FMTV 6x6 trucks, so that they could operate them if required. The sappers of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) also trained with troops from the US 192nd Ordnance (EOD) Battalion, searching roads, buildings and vehicles for IEDs and dealing with unexploded ordnance,

Right: British paratroopers fight their way through Freedom Village which was defended by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment 'The Old Guard' acting as OPFOR (Opposing Forces)

2: A British Para provides cover while his comrades cross a street - his SA80 A2 TES assault rifle is fitted with a Spectre OS 4x



2



while the engineers of 51 Parachute Squadron from 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment trained with troops from the 37th Brigade Engineer Battalion 'Green Falcons' in the demolition of obstacles using PE7 and C4 explosives.

96-HOUR PRE-DEPLOYMENT PROCESS

With the familiarisation and integration training completed, the Air Manoeuvre Battle Group was put through the 96-hour pre-deployment process for a Global Response Force deployment together with the troops of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 'Falcons. Among other tasks, the Paras prepared their kit as part of this, were issued rations and ammunition, were briefed on the

upcoming operation and their part in it, rigged their vehicles to be air-dropped or prepared them to be flown in with the follow-on air-landing waves, conducted walk-through-talk-through rehearsals, and were put through Sustained Airborne Training to prepare them for the planned massive airborne drop.

AIR-DROP TWO-GUN RAIDS & HELIBORNE ASSAULTS

D-Day of CHOAX 15-01 was 13th April. With the pre-deployment process work completed, the British and American troops were now transferred to Green Ramp,

Dual Role Combat Sight with Shield Close Quarter Battlesight (CQB) on top

3: This US Army 105mm M119A3 light towed howitzer is de-rigged by British gunners after being dropped by parachute onto Sicily Drop Zone during the interoperability training phase

a complex at Pope Army Airfield where the air mounting process is conducted. Here troops were issued parachutes, conducted final safety training and then boarded C-17 Globemaster III and C-130J Hercules transport aircraft of the US Air Force at around 15:00 hours. At the same time the heavy drop pallets were loaded onto additional aircraft.

Then, after last light, the FTX (field training phase) of the exercise kicked off with a massive air drop of some 2,100 troops, including some 500 British paratroopers. The drop was conducted in two waves and involved twelve C-130J Hercules and eight C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft of the US Air Force, as well as two C-130J

3



4



One of two 105mm L118 Light Guns of F (Sphinx) Battery from 7th PARA Regiment RHA is picked up by US Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters for a two-gun raid supporting a heliborne air assault



Paratroopers of 3 PARA board a CH-47F Chinook transport helicopter of the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, during the extraction after conducting an airborne assault



5

Hercules transport aircraft of the Royal Air Force. Also dropped with the paratroopers were twenty-one vehicles, including a couple of British ones.

The drop was the beginning of a Combined Joint Forcible Entry Operation. In the first part of this, the dropped US and UK troops secured an airfield and conducted a NEO (non-combatant evacuation operation). With the airfield secured,

to secure a chemical weapons plant situated in a village.

These operations were supported by two-gun raids that saw artillery pieces of F (Sphinx) Parachute Battery 7th Parachute Regiment RHA being flown forward in order to support the assault forces with indirect fire. US enablers participated in the British-led operations while UK enablers, such as engineers, supported US troops in carrying out their missions. The final

task for the British troops was to assault Freedom Village and destroy an enemy training camp situated there. For this purpose D Company of 1st Battalion from 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment was placed under British command.

MAJOR MILESTONE

In modern times military operations are seldom conducted by the armed forces of one nation alone. All recent deployments of the British Army, such as with KFOR in Kosovo, under Operation TELIC in Iraq and with ISAF in Afghanistan, have been of a combined nature, involving troops of two or more nations

4: 3 PARA Support Company's Fire Support Group 1 used Jackal 1 High Mobility Weapons Platforms during CJOAX 15-01 - this unit was heavily employed for screening and fire support missions

5: After the exhausting battle British paratroopers are supplied with water once they have secured Objective Bronze - note the Yamaha Grizzly 450 IRS Quad with trailer and stretcher

6: Many enablers belonged to the Air Manoeuvre Battle Group centred around the 3 PARA including members of 156 Provost Company from 4th Regiment Royal Military Police



cooperating closely. For the troops of 16 Air Assault Brigade, and the paratroopers of the 3rd Battalion of The Parachute Regiment in particular, CJOAX 15-01 was a fantastic opportunity to train with their US partners in a combined environment. The exercise also was a major milestone on the way to fully integrate UK and US airborne forces, so that in the future they can conduct operations together in response to crises worldwide.



the troops then began to expand the area they controlled. While doing so elements of British AMBG conducted a pair of heliborne air assaults to seize key objectives and neutralise hostile forces. In one of these assaults the British paratroopers had



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RN Fleet flagship HMS *Ocean* anchored off Ustka with RAF Chinook above two Apache helicopters on the flight deck as a brace of LCVPs return to the ship
[USMC: 1st Lt. Sarah E. Burns]

Multinational Forces

BY BOB MORRISON

BALTOPS '15

AMPHIBIOUS LANDING PHASES

This June over 20 NATO allies and partner nations conducted a series of training manoeuvres in Europe under the ALLIED SHIELD umbrella, including: NOBLE JUMP, the first training deployment of Allied high-readiness units under the new Very High Readiness Joint Task Force framework; SABER STRIKE, a significant land exercise in the Baltic States; TRIDENT JOUST, a NRF command and control exercise in Romania; and BALTOPS, the major Baltic Sea naval exercise. In total, approximately 15,000 troops simultaneously participated, using military training areas in countries including Sweden, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. **C&S** attended the three main exercise phases held in Poland.

1: Swedish Marines wade ashore at Raviunda from CB-90 fast assault craft as a Royal Navy Lynx hovers overhead
[USMC: Sgt. Tatum Vayavananda]

2: US Marines climb off a Swedish beach after coming ashore by Royal Marines LCVP during familiarisation training
[USMC: Sgt. Tatum Vayavananda]



3



4



The official NATO notification of these exercises, formally released on 12th May though we were briefed on the scenario and approximate dates back in January, explained that all exercises were defensive and intended as part of the Alliance's assurance measures "in response to challenges on NATO's southern and eastern periphery". The activity focused on "enhancing interoperability, readiness and responsiveness among Allied and partner nations" as well as demonstrating "that NATO members are united in their commitment to collective defence".

We are commencing our coverage of the ALLIED SHIELD exercise series this month by looking at part of the second amphibious landing phase of BALTOPS '15, held on the wooded coastline to the west of the Polish port of Ustka where a very large tract of land is used as a military training area. Four days before we visited, the Combined Amphibious Task Force had landed at Ravlunda in Sweden in what was effectively a dress rehearsal to give participating Marines and Sailors a chance to train together,

3: USS *San Antonio*, a Landing Platform Dock, provided the bulk of the US Marine Corps component of the Combined Amphibious Task Force

4: HMS *Ocean* in the background with various American, British and Swedish amphibious craft coming ashore and a Polish PTS-M beaching

5: Finnish Marines from the Nyland Brigade aboard a PTS-M which is just about to swim ashore from Polish ORP *Lublin* (USMC: 1st Lt. Sarah E. Burns)

The LST (Landing Ship Tank) ORP *Lublin* - the orange safety boat alongside proved necessary when the PTS-M sunk - fortunately its crew escaped unharmed



This PTS-M brought a platoon of Finnish Marines safely ashore but floundered in heavy swell on its return trip out to ORP *Lublin* (Pennant 821)



A phalanx of USMC AAV-P7/A1 tracked amphibious assault vehicles swims ashore from USS *San Antonio* anchored off Ustka [USMC: 1st Lt. Sarah E. Burns]



6

6: As the US Marines' amtracs hit the beach Swedish CB-90 fast assault craft covered them with heavy machineguns and grenade launchers



7

7: The American AAV-P7/A1 amtracs can transport up to 21 Marines plus three crew ashore under armour protection and travel far inland



but the main event would take place more than 200 kilometres south-east, across the Baltic Sea, where the airfield at Wicko Morskie had to be captured to give an air transportation point of entry.

BALTOPS, short for Baltic Operations, is an annual joint, multinational maritime-focused NATO exercise designed to enhance flexibility and interoperability, as well as to demonstrate resolve among Allied

and partner forces to defend the Baltic region. First run in 1971, the exercise is US-led and sponsored by Commander US Naval Forces Europe. Its purpose is primarily to train partner nations in integrated anti-submarine warfare, mine countermeasures, search & rescue, and maritime interdiction operations based on scenarios dealing with potential real world crises and maritime security.

8

8: The Soviet-built PTS-M used by the Polish Marine Infantry serves the same purpose as the AAV-P7/A1 but is open-topped so offers less protection



The Standing NATO Maritime Group and Standing NATO Maritime Countermeasures Group naval aspects of BALTOPS lie outside the scope of this magazine, but the littoral operations side of the exercise are of great interest. Britain's fleet flagship HMS

■ Multinational Forces

The CV-22 Osprey tiltrotor has replaced the CH-53E helicopter as USMC air transportation - these aircraft are capable of operating from HMS *Ocean*



9: US Navy Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) sweeps ashore past ORP *Lublin* which can just be seen through the spray

10: Finnish SISU wheeled armoured personnel carriers back off a US Navy hovercraft - these APCs also have an amphibious capability

11: The SISU (now Patria) XA-185 Pasi can carry up to 16 troops in addition to a crew of two - propellers give it a water speed of 10km/hr

9



10



11



12



Ocean (amphibious assault ship) participated, along with HMS *Iron Duke* (Type 23 frigate) and HMS *Quorn* (mine countermeasures vessel). A troop (platoon) Royal Marines operated from *Ocean*, but they appear to have come ashore by LCPV (landing craft vehicle personnel) in the first wave so we were unable to photograph them.

High winds and extremely choppy seas caused logistics problems, with the original plan to transport the media from Ustka Port to the landing beach by Swedish CB-90 assault craft being shelved on safety grounds, so by the time we arrived there overland the first wave was ashore and had set off

through the pine forests to assault the airfield. However our Polish hosts let us approach as close to the beachhead as safety constraints allowed (bearing in mind that the bulk of media attending were not defence specialists familiar with amtracs and hovercraft) though the downside to us being on the dunes rather than in the boats was that early

12: Finnish Marine provides security for a mortar detachment - he wears the NATO Response Force patch on his upper right arm

summer foliage partially obscured the beach from our vantage point.

During the period that we were on the beach the wave of multinational forces coming ashore consisted primarily of Finnish and United States Marines. Some of the Finns were landed by Polish PTS-M tracked amphibious



Above: The Finns set up their mortar line behind the first rows of sand dunes to cover Marines assaulting Wicko Morskie airfield

Right: The Finnish Marines from the Nyland Brigade are highly respected - Carl will bring an in-depth report on them in a future issue

13: Although we did not see them some Royal Marines went ashore at Ustka - long shadows suggest this was early morning
[© Polish MoD]



vehicle and others were brought onto the beach in their SISU personnel carriers by US Navy Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), while US Marines landed in their Assault Amphibious Vehicles (AAV). The Swedish CB-90 fleet covered the beachhead from the flanks.

Footnote: When informed that those responsible for Swedish combat boat flotilla operations had deemed the sea state too rough to take us aboard, some of the media could not see any problem. However, when midway through the landing phase a Polish PTS-M tracked sank while attempting to re-embark an LST, they quickly appreciated the power of Neptune.

Next month: NOBLE JUMP '15



13



14

14: Swedish Saab JAS 39 Gripen aircraft - seen here in a formation low pass - provided combat air cover for the Combined Landing Force

Images ©
Bob Morrison
unless noted



An elite Jaeger from Finland's Nyland Brigade on the dunes at Ustka during BALTOPS '15 - the shield on his upper right arm is the high visibility version of the NATO Response Force badge [© Bob Morrison]

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■ Urban Survival

We are all too connected and the use of the Internet has expanded massively in recent times. Every organisation is now connected and almost everyone has a smart phone. Computers control telephone services, power supplies, rail networks, banks, air traffic and vast areas of our military and security systems. Imagine if a hostile force were able to gain control of those computer systems, or even just slip in a damaging virus.

Internet-dependent cities are highly vulnerable to cyber-terrorism [BM]

Images © Jason Polley or Bob Morrison

DEFINITIONS

Cyber-terrorism is more than cyber-crime, which is about money and usually targeted at individuals. Cyber-terrorists want to create terror. They want to control and cause damage, bringing whole organisations or countries to their knees. Cyber-terrorists are motivated by a political and/or military agenda, not wealth.

This is a form of warfare where the soldiers are skilled hackers, the battlefield is the Internet, and the weapons are viruses. Cyber-attacks are conducted remotely, anonymously and cheaply, requiring no expensive weapons or troops, yet the effects can be as crippling as any warhead.

EXAMPLES

In June 2015 the US admitted it had been the subject of an attack and

'persons unknown' had hacked into one of its databases, taking the personal information of millions of government employees, some with a high level of security clearance. Although China is suspected of being behind the attack, nothing could be proven. Someone now has a long list of people that may be worth bribing, kidnapping, duplicating their ID, putting under surveillance or even assassinating. The list could be repeatedly sold around the world.

Prior to this, Sony were hit and details of 77 million customers were taken. Other victims of cyber-attacks have included the NHS, the CIA and Lockheed Martin; the aerospace company that designed the F35 Lightning. What if information was not just stolen, but viruses were

subtly implanted so control could be gained at a later date...

In 2013 a group calling itself the Syrian Electronic Army hacked into an Australian Internet company leading to several American media companies, including the New York Times, losing control of their websites. A similar attack was carried out during the Russian-Georgian War in 2008, when hackers got into several news and radio websites and re-wrote the news ... like something out of a Bond movie. The hackers realised you can control the people if you control the media.

The Leveson Inquiry into phone hacking has shown just how easy and widespread the practise is. No form of electronic communication is truly secure.

In 2007 Estonia was attacked by remote

CYBER-TERRORISM

An Unseen Enemy - by Jason Polley



hackers on a massive scale. It was probably Russia, but the nature of cyber-attacks means virtually nothing can be accurately traced. Like so many countries, Estonia is a computer/internet dependent country, and was rendered off-line completely for several weeks. This disabled the country's banking, transport and mobile phone services, as well almost every aspect of its business life.

In more recent times, the head of Interpol, Ronald Noble, had his identity stolen. Hackers gained access to the Interpol system and learned about an on-going operation.

Many cyber-attacks are hushed up for fear of losing public confidence and giving terrorists publicity. What we read about is a tiny percentage of what is actually happening.

ANONYMOUS

Anonymous is the name of a mysterious group of very skilled hacker-activists that operate globally. They have the ability to hack into virtually any system, as well as to co-ordinate the mass emailing of organisations so as to paralyse them. Often symbolised by an image of Guy Fawkes, they have launched cyber-attacks as part of a political protest, or just for fun. Their attacks are almost impossible to trace, and come from thousands of different directions simultaneously.

NATIONAL RESPONSES

China's Defence Ministry has its 'Cyber Blue Team' supposedly set up to bolster its

defences, but many suspect they are actually engaged in attacks on foreign governments and behind a significant proportion of international hacking. A report published by McAfee, the world's largest security technology company, reveals that China has hacked into dozens and dozens of US and UK companies and government agencies, including Britain's Foreign Office.

Britain takes all forms of cyber-crime and terrorism seriously. Within the Police force there is the National Cyber Crime Unit, initially created to support the Fraud Squad but now extended to all forms of crime and terrorism. It helped set up the International Cybercrime Security Protection Alliance, to unify the public and private sector approach to the cyber-attacks. The Counter Terrorism Command (SO15) is a merger of the Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Branch, and work closely with MI5 and MI6 in addressing cyber-terrorism.

The US also takes very seriously the threats from cyber-attacks. The Department of Defence has appointed

Above: An airport without computers would grind to a halt in seconds - most forms of public transport could be paralysed by a cyber-attack

Right: Cyber-attacks on banks and financial institutions are often hushed up for fear of losing public confidence

Below: Britain's NHS was recently hacked - but what was the real purpose of the attack?



the US Strategic Command the task of combating cyber-terrorism. This also led to the creation of the Air Force Cyber Command, as well as coordinated strategies with other agencies like the National Security Agency. The FBI now has a Cyber Task Force to address cyber-terrorism, identity theft and all forms of cyber-crime. The CIA's Digital Innovation Office is the first new directorate the CIA has created in 50 years and in direct response to the threat from cyber-terrorism. Groups like ISIS which have shown considerable IT expertise - and they just get better.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES

Good anti-virus software helps, but the hackers are often after personal data, so as to get round the protection and imitate you. Malware and 'phishing' - innocent looking emails that aim to coax personal information out of you - are harder to defeat. Once they



have enough data to make the computer system believe they are you, they can get into a system and wreak havoc, plant viruses and steal information with ease.

Don't open emails from organisations you have not had recent contact with, particularly mail with an attachment or hyperlink. Use one PC/laptop for work and another for recreational use.

Have a low-tech Plan B if making arrangements with others. Do not under-estimate our reliance on computers. Understand just how vulnerable we all are, and take steps to improve firewalls and personal security - particularly if you work for a government department or agency!

To be continued...

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SCAT's instructors are specialists in the Maritime Security, Close Protection and Firearms Training fields with a breadth of Military and Police experience

SCAT ^{part 2} POLAND

Security Consulting and Training

By Bob Morrison



“If you are ever in the Gdansk area while one of our courses is running, feel free to drop in and watch how we do things at SCAT.” That invitation from the UK representative of the Polish-based and internationally accredited Security Consulting And Training company was an offer we could not refuse, as we had been picking up good vibes about their set-up and courses. Founded by Mariusz Pakiela, who spent the first part of his 22-year military career with Poland’s elite 56th Commando Company before transferring to serve 12 years with GROM Special Forces, SCAT is an unique training company.

Main Image: SCAT founder Mariusz spent more than half of his 22-year military career with GROM - in this photo the Polish SF unit is seen during boarding operations in the port of Umm Qasr in March 2003 [US Navy: Arlo K. Abrahamson]

1: In addition to classroom, workshop, armoury and firing range facilities SCAT has access to both inland waterway and Baltic Sea harbours and vessels for authentic maritime training



Last month we covered one of SCAT’s two-day Basic Firearms course, which luckily coincided with NATO’s ALLIED SHIELD series of exercises in the Baltic nations for which I had set aside a couple of weeks to work in Poland. Some of the students on this course had previous firearms training, through prior service in

the police or armed forces, and so merely required a refresher, but a couple were novices whose work could put them in a situation where knowing how to use a firearm properly might save their life.

SCAT run a number of shooting courses, both Basic and Advanced, covering pistol and

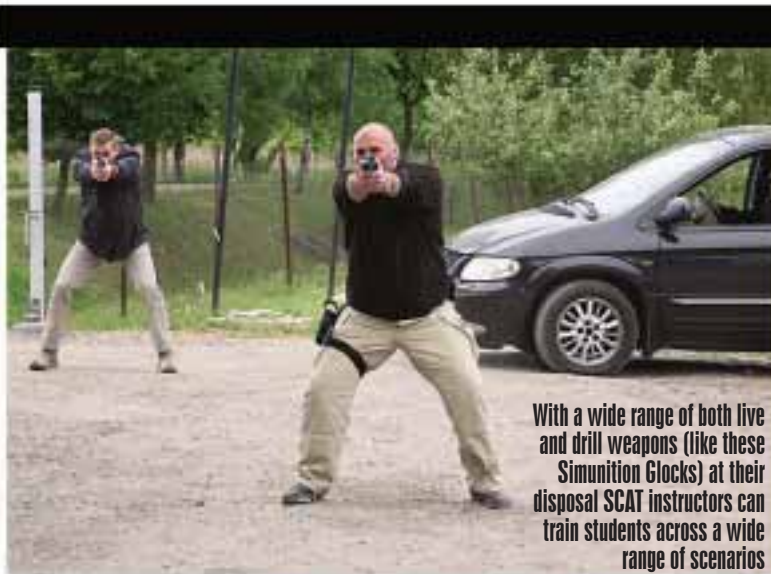


carbine techniques, to cater for individuals who are totally unfamiliar with weapons procedures and handling skills right through to those with previous training who need to reduce reaction time and shoot with a higher degree of accuracy in a tactical environment. However this is only one string to the training company's bow, as they also run fully accredited Maritime Patrol Craft, Target Interception, Close Quarters Battle, Vessel Board Search & Seizure, Insertion & Extraction, and Patrol Boat Security Operations courses for Police, Coastguard and Security Company operatives.

Many of the more intense Maritime training courses offered by SCAT are of 14-day

2: Under their instructor's supervision Basic Firearms Course students out on the firing range at the start of Day Two practise skills taught the previous day

3: As paper targets do not fire back the firing range is rather clinical but before they progress to using Simunition rounds every student must master weapons handling drills and display shooting accuracy



With a wide range of both live and drill weapons (like these Simunition Glock's) at their disposal SCAT instructors can train students across a wide range of scenarios



duration, with both theoretical and practical exams at the end leading to certification, but these almost pale into insignificance when compared with the highly specialised Diving courses which Mariusz and his team offer. Intended for military, police, border guard and port security

personnel, the Basic Diving course lasts 30 days with the Advanced Diving course being of the same length, but if Underwater Vehicle, Tactical and Cold Water modules are bolted on each student could spend 95 days under SCAT tuition .

Firearms

Once the pistol has been mastered it is time to move on to 9mm sub-machineguns and, as here, 5.56mm assault rifles like this Mossberg MMR Tactical firing Simunition rounds



Other non-maritime and non-firearms day courses run by SCAT include: Basic Security Awareness, for personnel working in a heightened security environment (where the threat of terrorist attack on the public or the workforce is high); and Behavioural Profiling, for retail industry workers in environments where not only

Left: This blue Glock and its dedicated magazine allow students to both safely shoot indoors in a CQB environment and shoot back at similarly equipped assailants firing marker rounds

Right: An instructor supervises a student as he engages various targets on command while walking through a 'kill house' - this photo was only possible because Simunition rounds were used



Students are given access to a range of 9mm sub-machineguns of German, Polish and Swiss manufacture - this is the Brügger & Thomet APC configured for firing Simunition rounds

terrorism but also theft and vandalism pose a significant problem. Longer courses for security screeners, both on the Document Verification and Checkpoint Control aspects, are also run by this Polish-based team which operates as a Non-Public Continuing Education Provider with EU and ISO accreditation.

However it is in the Firearms and Maritime Security Training spheres that Mariusz is really in his element, as he spent so much of his military career ascending to the pinnacle of excellence in these disciplines. The classroom walls of the SCAT



training base on the outskirts of Elblag, just a stone's throw from the docks on the river which gives the city its name, are adorned with plaques and certificates charting Mariusz's military career and underscoring his competency in Naval Special Warfare, Riverine Patrol Craft Operations and Naval



Main Image: Outdoors two students take on an armed assistant as an instructor bundles the third to safety in a Close Protection scenario outside SCAT's training base

Small Craft Instruction. As for his Instructor Cadre, this is drawn primarily from Polish Special Forces and retired police and border guard anti-terrorist unit officers who are Polish and/or NATO security certificated, so their expertise level is second to none.

4: Students armed with assault rifles practise CP drills against assailants firing with AKs from longer range - as this was a non-firing exercise with empty magazines no helmets were worn

Finally, turning to the weapons used on the Basic and Advanced Firearms Courses, both live and Simunition versions of a wide range of types are used. As can be seen the Glock 17 is SCAT's pistol of choice, with both normal and marker ammunition versions being used dependent on precise training scenario, but a range of sub-machineguns and assault rifles, including a batch of consecutively numbered AK-47s purchased unfired, is also available to students for familiarity, handling and shooting practise.

To find out more about SCAT courses go to scat.pl - the website is in English, Polish and Russian.



5: Simunition ammo has a lower charge giving reduced velocity allowing service weapons to be used - the paintball-like marker bursts on impact and should not injure a person wearing face protection



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PUMA '15

Trinational Tactical Battle Group

Report & Images by Carl Schulze

In response to the Ukraine crisis, and the Russian involvement in it, NATO's focus has changed from training to conduct stabilisation and counter-insurgency operations to preparing for conventional warfare again. In May 2015 French, Polish and US forces trained for armoured warfare at the Land Forces Training Centre and Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area in north-east Poland, during Exercise PUMA '15. Led by 15 Giżycka Brygada Zmechanizowana (the Giżycko-based 15th Mechanised Brigade) of the Polish Army, this exercise marked the first ever deployment of French Army Leclerc main battle tanks outside France for training purposes.

11:00 approx. 29th May, 2015: In the distance black smoke marks

Main Image: During the live-fire phase of PUMA '15 a BWP-1 armoured infantry fighting vehicle of 2 Batalion Zmechanizowany engages a target with its 73mm 2A28 gun

Right: Engineers of 15 Mazurski Batalion Saperów blow a gap through a minefield with a Zespół Bojowy Wyrzutni Ładunków Wydłużonych (Zmodernizowany) mine clearing line charge



the position where a segment of the attacking enemy armoured forces has been destroyed by a combination of Sukhoi Su-22 fighter-bombers and Mi-24W Hind attack helicopters, as well as well-directed artillery fire of a battery from 15 Mechanised Brigade's Dywizjon Artylerii Samobieżnej (self-propelled artillery squadron) equipped with 2S1T Goździk howitzers. However the air-strikes and artillery fire have merely disrupted, but not stopped, the attacking enemy forces that

continue to close in on the well dug in positions of the French and Polish troops of the multinational Tactical Battle Group (TBG).

Now the enemy has come in range of the defenders' anti-tank weapons and main battle tanks, with the first of their vehicles crossing the open fire line. Immediately on the right, bright flashes followed by deafening crashes indicate that the lead enemy armour has been



engaged by French Leclerc main battle tanks from 12e Régiment de Cuirassiers, with their 120mm CN 120-26/52 smoothbore tank guns. From the left the fizzling noises of high explosive anti-tank rounds can be heard heading down the range, indicating that the Polish BWP-1 armoured infantry fighting vehicles of the 2 Batalion Zmechanizowany (mechanised infantry battalion) armed with the 73mm 2A28 gun have entered the fight. This massive weight of anti-armour fire wreaks havoc among the attacking forces and immediately checks their advance. It is now time for the battalion commander of the Polish 2nd Battalion to launch a counter-attack with his reserves in order to totally destroy the attacking enemy force.

The counter-attack begins with the launch of two ZB-WŁWD/Z (Zespół

Bojowy Wyrzutni Ładunków Wydłużonych Dużych / Zmodernizowany) mine clearing line charges. Suddenly there is a huge fire-ball followed by a massive bang as the large explosion created by the system clears a gap through a minefield that had initially been created by engineers of the defending force in order to block the enemy advance. With the minefield breached, the reserves now begin their attack. From the woods behind the French forces a previously concealed US tank company, equipped with M1A2 SEP (V2) Abrams MBTs, emerges and pushes forward at high speed. At the same time a Polish mechanised infantry company, equipped with BWP-1 armoured infantry fighting vehicles, appears on the left to pass through the

1: BWP-1 armoured infantry fighting vehicle of 2 Batalion Zmechanizowany (mechanised infantry battalion) conduct an offensive river crossing operation

2: During an offensive operation this BWP-1 armoured infantry fighting vehicle of 2 Batalion Zmechanizowany has just successfully negotiated a water obstacle

Images ©
Carl Schulze

lines of its sister company.

Again the loud bangs of 120mm tank guns and the fizzling noises of the 73mm guns of the armoured infantry fighting vehicles can be heard all over the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area range. With this battalion-size live-fire exercise involving American, French and Polish forces Exercise PUMA '15 drew to a close.

ANNUAL EXERCISE

Exercise PUMA '15 was the latest of a series of exercises held annually by 15 Giżycka Brygada Zmechanizowana of the Polish Army. Usually being of a national nature, involving only Polish troops, the battalion-level exercise programme is held to allow the brigade command to evaluate the operational readiness of subordinate units and certify them ready for combat service. This

A Leclerc main battle tank of 12e Régiment de Cuirassiers engages a target from a defensive position with its stabilised 120mm CN 120-26/52 smoothbore tank gun during the PUMA '15 live-fire package



year's exercise, however, also saw the participation of a Sous-Groupement Tactique Interarmes (SGTIA) of the French Army and elements of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment 'Cottonbalers' of the US Army.

The participation of NATO troops in the exercise was a direct result of the ongoing reassurance measures taken by the Alliance in the wake of the Ukraine crisis and the Russian involvement in it. For 15 Giżycka Brygada Zmechanizowana, the involvement of French and US troops on Exercise PUMA '15 was a great benefit, allowing its units to train in a combined forces environment. During the exercise the 2nd Mechanised Infantry Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Marke Pieniak and also based at based at Giżycko, equipped with BWP-1 armoured infantry fighting vehicles, was also evaluated.

The French and US contingents were placed under command of the Polish battalion in order to form a Tactical Battle Group (TBG). Most of the other units of 15 Mechanised Brigade were also

3: Polish Mi-24W Hind attack helicopters of 1 Brygada Lotnictwa Wojsk Lądowych provided close air support to the French, Polish and US ground forces during PUMA '15

4: French infantry deployed on PUMA '15 were equipped with the FELIN (Fantassin à Équipement et Liaison Intégré) infantry equipment - note this 5.56mm FELIN FAMAS it is fitted with a EOTech sight

5: This French VBCI of the SGTIA has deployed along a vital advance route of the multinational Tactical Battle Group to provide cover for the advance of elements of the Polish 2 Battalion Zmechanizowany

involved in the exercise, providing combat and logistic support for the TBG or serving as command and control elements or opposing forces. The exercise was conducted on the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, in north-western Poland, home of the Land Forces Training Centre, between 11th and 29th May and, according to official statistics, involved some 2,000 troops and 300 wheeled and tracked vehicles as well as helicopters and combat aircraft. Overall control of the exercise was in the hands of General Slawomir Kowalski, brigade commander of 15 Giżycka Brygada Zmechanizowana.

TACTICAL TRAINING AND LIVE FIRE PACKAGE

Basically Exercise PUMA '15 was divided into a tactical phase and a live-fire phase. The first phase consisted of an interoperability package and a tactical training



package. During the interoperability package familiarisation training was conducted at all levels in order to develop and standardise common operational procedures. The tactical



training saw the combined armoured force conducting offensive and defensive operations, such as fighting a delaying battle, fighting an all-arms defensive battle, attacking across a water obstacle, conducting flanking operations, advancing to contact, operating under an NBC threat, and taking and holding objectives with offensive action.

On 27th May, for example, the TBG conducted a battalion-size offensive operation after beating off an enemy attack. In the first part of the offensive, French and US forces secured objective A in order to enable the remaining assets of the battlegroup to pass through and attack the final objective B. In



6



order to do so the Polish troops then had to fight their way across a water obstacle and secure the other bank; the water obstacle crossing being supported by 15 Mazurski Batalion Saperów (engineer battalion). With this task achieved they had to continue their

attack, take the final objective and secure it against an enemy counter-attack. In the last phase of the day the enemy deployed chemical weapons to stop the advance of the TBG, therefore large parts of it had to be relieved in place during the evening and run through a decontamination point run by the Wojsk Chemicznych



(NBC defence forces) of the Polish Army.

Exercise PUMA '15 then culminated in the live-fire package conducted on 28th and 29th May, during which the forces trained to fight a defensive battle supported by indirect fire assets and close air

Main Image: Conducting operations under chemical weapons threat of was one part of the training - here Polish BWP-1 IFVs run through a decontamination point after being exposed to simulated chemical weapons attack

6: The M1A2 SEP (V2) Abrams is the latest version of the US main battle tank - this one belongs to D Company from 2nd Battalion of the 7th Infantry Regiment 'Cottonbalers'

Left: A Star 6x6 truck of the Dywizjon Przeciwlotniczy is ferried over a water obstacle by a PTS-M amphibious transport vehicle of 15 Mazurski Batalion Saperów

support. Conducting a counter-attack, including the passage of lines, was also part of the live-fire package.

SOUS-GROUPEMENT TACTIQUE INTERARMES (SGTIA)

France participated in Exercise PUMA '15 with a Sous-Groupement Tactique Interarmes (SGTIA) - a reinforced company-size all arms battle group provided by the 2e Brigade Blindée (2e BB) and numbering some 300 troops. The core of the SGTIA was formed by a squadron of the Olivet-based 12e Régiment de Cuirassiers, equipped with 15 Leclerc main battle tanks.

The platoon-size infantry component of the SGTIA was provided by the 16e Bataillon de Chasseurs, based at Bitche. The infantry fielded four Véhicule Blindé de Combat de l'Infanterie (VBCI) wheeled infantry fighting vehicles and its infantrymen were equipped with the latest FELIN (Fantassin à Équipement et Liaison Intégré) infantry equipment. Engineer support for the SGTIA was provided by a section of the 13e Régiment du Génie (13e RG) equipped with one Engin Blindé du Génie (EBG) armoured engineer vehicle and

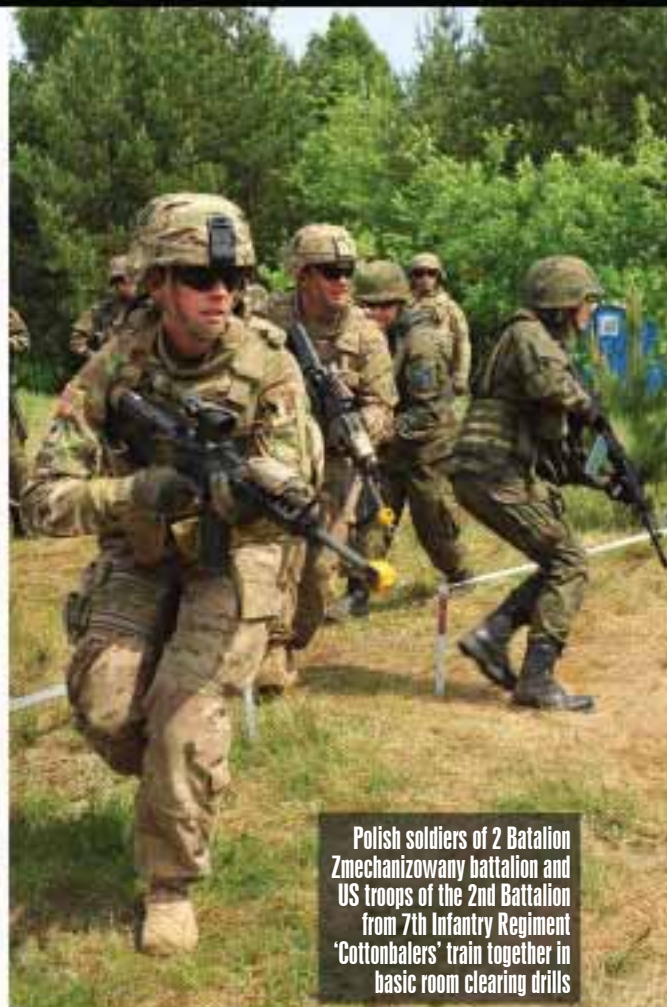


Indirect artillery fire support for the Tactical Battle Group was provided by 2S1T Gozdzik self-propelled howitzers from the Dywizjon Artylerii Samobieżnej of the 15 Giżycka Brygada Zmechanizowana

three Véhicule de l'Avant Blindé (VAB) Genie wheeled armoured personnel carriers in the engineer configuration.

The SGTIA also included a logistic support element containing, among other assets, a medical detachment, a maintenance detachment and a

transportation detachment. In total the French Army deployed some 90 wheeled and tracked vehicles with the SGTIA, among them in addition those already mentioned, a Dépanneur du Char Leclerc armoured recovery vehicle, VAB ambulances, several Véhicule Blindé Léger (VBL)



Polish soldiers of 2 Batalion Zmechanizowany battalion and US troops of the 2nd Battalion from 7th Infantry Regiment 'Cottonbalers' train together in basic room clearing drills

7: This was the first time French Army Leclerc main battle tanks were deployed outside France for training purposes - a total of 15 tanks from 12e Régiment de Cuirassiers were deployed

8: A Leclerc main battle tank from France's 12e Régiment de Cuirassiers advances over the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area - its primary armament is the 120mm CN 120-26/52 smoothbore tank gun

reconnaissance and liaison vehicles, Renault 6x6 trucks and so on.

The deployment of the French troops to Poland was conducted by rail and started on 20th April. While Exercise PUMA '15 was not the first time that French forces had trained in Poland, it marked the first time that Leclerc main battle tanks of the French Army were deployed outside France for training purposes.

'DEATH RIDERS'

The US Army participated on Exercise PUMA '15 with elements of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment 'Cottonbalers' from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division; this formation has replaced 2nd Cavalry Regiment, which **C&S** worked with earlier this year, in the USAREUR orbit. This US contingent was centred around D 'Death Riders' Company of the battalion, but also included elements of the units Headquarters and Headquarters

■ Allied Forces

Company (HHC), such as the Mortar Platoon and the Scout Platoon. Major equipment fielded by the US troops included 14 M1A2 SEP (V2) Abrams main battle tanks, three M3A3 Bradley cavalry fighting vehicles, one M3A3 Bradley Fire Support Team Vehicle (B-FIST), one M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System (HERCULES), one M88A1 armoured recovery vehicle and three 120mm M1064 mortar carriers as well as several M113A3 armoured personnel carriers, FMTV 6x6 trucks and HEMTT trucks.

The US troops first deployed under Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE to Poland in March 2015. ATLANTIC RESOLVE is aimed at reassuring NATO's eastern members of the continued US commitment to the collective security of the Alliance. Simultaneously, other elements of the 2nd Battalion of 7th Infantry Regiment 'Cottonbalers' deployed to Estonia and Latvia, where they also participated in national and/or NATO-led exercises.

9: After a simulated chemical attack this Engin Blindé du Génie (EBG) armoured engineer vehicle of the 13e Régiment du Génie (13e RG) is decontaminated by Polish troops

10: T-72M1 main battle tanks of the Batalion Czołgów also saw action during PUMA 15 - on the tactical phase they provided the core of the Opposing Forces

9



10



15 GIŻYCKA BRYGADA ZMECHANIZOWANA



Above: Badge of 15 Giżycka Brygada Zmechanizowana, worn since December 2006 - the two swords represent the 1410 Battle of Grunwald which resulted in a Polish victory over German knights and the coat of arms are those of Polish knight Zawisza Czarny who took part in the battle and serves as brigade patron

Poland's 15th Mechanised Brigade is based at Giżycko in north-eastern Poland, close to the border between Poland and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. The brigade belongs to the 16th Pomorska Mechanised Division, based at Elbląg, which also includes: the Wesola-based 1st Warszawska Armoured Brigade; the Braniewo-based 9th Braniewska Armoured Cavalry Brigade; the Bartoszyce-based 20th Bartoszycka Mechanised Infantry Brigade, the Węgorzewo-based 11th Mazurski Artillery Regiment; the Goldap-based 15th Goldapski Air Defence Regiment and the Elbląg-based 16th Command Battalion.

The 15 Giżycka Brygada Zmechanizowana was formed out of the 2 Pułku Zmechanizowanego (mechanised infantry regiment) in 1994 and today the brigade consists of the following units:

- Batalion Dowodzenia (command battalion) based at Giżycko
- Kompania Rozpoznawcza (armoured reconnaissance company) based at Giżycko and equipped with BRDM-2 Szakal wheeled armoured reconnaissance vehicles
- 1 Batalion Zmechanizowany (mechanised infantry battalion) based at Orzysz and equipped with BWP-1 armoured infantry fighting vehicles
- 2 Batalion Zmechanizowany mechanised infantry battalion based at Giżycko and equipped with BWP-1 armoured infantry fighting vehicles
- Batalion Czołgów (armoured battalion) based at Orzysz and equipped with T-72M1 main battle tanks
- Dywizjon Artylerii Samobieżnej (artillery group) based at Orzysz and equipped with 2S1T Goździk self propelled howitzers
- Dywizjon Przeciwlotniczy (air defence group) based at Giżycko and equipped with towed 23mm ZU 23-2 anti-aircraft guns
- 15 Mazurski Batalion Saperów (engineer battalion) based at Orzysz and equipped with a wide range of engineer equipment including: the PTS-M amphibious transport vehicle; the Inżynieryjny System Minowania Krotan mine laying vehicle; the Transporter Rozpoznania Inżynieryjnego engineer reconnaissance vehicle; the Zespół Bojowy Wyrzutni Ładunków Wydłużonych Dużych (Zmodernizowany) ZB-WŁWD/Z mine clearing line charge; the SL-34C dozer loader; and the BLG-67 armoured bridgelayer.
- Batalion Logistyczny (logistic support battalion) based at Giżycko



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XM2010/M2010 ESR

Enhanced Sniper Rifle - Report & Images by Carl Schulze

MANUFACTURED BY REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, THE NEW US ARMY SNIPER RIFLE, WHICH REPLACES THE 7.62X51MM M24 SNIPER WEAPON SYSTEM (SWS), WAS INITIALLY FIELDIED UNDER THE DESIGNATION XM2010 BUT NOW, AFTER TYPE CLASSIFICATION, IS DESIGNATED M2010 ENHANCED SNIPER RIFLE (ESR). RATHER THAN BEING A COMPLETELY NEW WEAPON THIS .300 WINCHESTER MAGNUM (7.62X67MM) CALIBRE BOLT ACTION RIFLE IS A FULLY UPGRADED AND RE-CHAMBERED M24 SWS. AS A RESULT OF ITS DIFFERENT CALIBRE AMMUNITION THE NEW WEAPON OFFERS GREATER PENETRATION POWER AND A 50% INCREASE IN EFFECTIVE RANGE COMPARED TO ITS PREDECESSOR.

1: The bolt action M2010 ESR uses the Remington 700 M24 trigger

2: Manufactured by Remington Arms Company the M2010 ESR features a five round box magazine

3: The rifle uses the RACS incorporating a front hand guard section with monolithic MIL-STD 1913 Picatinny Rails at the top, bottom, left and right

Images ©
Carl Schulze



The XM2010/M2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle (ESR) entered service from late 2010 and the snipers of the 82nd Airborne Division 'All American' were among the first to receive the new weapon



4: The bi-pod of the Enhanced Sniper Rifle is made by Harris Engineering

5: The ESR is fitted with a Leupold Mark 4 Extended Range/Tactical Riflescope with Advanced Scalable Ranging and Targeting Reticule



6: The M2010 ESR uses the Remington 700 M24 long action receiver and is fitted with a Leupold Mark 4 6.5–20 x50mm Extended Range/Tactical (ERT) Riflescope

7: The butt stock folds to the right - it has a fully length and height adjustable cheek piece and butt pad

height adjustable cheek piece and butt pad. The stock is made of T7075 aluminium alloy and captures the bolt handle when folded. Additionally, the chassis features cable routing guides that allow management of electrical cables, for example for aiming aids such as laser light modules. The weapon is issued with detachable box magazines that can hold up to five rounds. Its bi-pod is made by Harris Engineering.

Rail of the stock. Accessories issued with the weapon include hard cases for the rifle and the sniper scope, a soft case, cleaning kit and a tactical sling.

Fielding of the XM2010 ESR commenced in late 2010 and the weapon was type classified as M2010 ESR in July 2013. The last of



The M2010 ESR comes with a TITAN-QD tactical suppressor manufactured by Advanced Armament Corporation

The M2010 comes with a TITAN-QD tactical suppressor manufactured by Advanced Armament Corporation and is fitted with a Leupold Mark 4 6.5–20 x50mm Extended Range/Tactical (ERT) Riflescope with Advanced Scalable Ranging and Targeting Reticule. The sniper scope can be operated with the AN/PVS-30 Clip-on Sniper Night Sight, which is mounted in front of it on the upper monolithic MIL-STD 1913 Picatinny

a total of 2,520 weapons ordered to date for reconfiguration by the US Army was delivered in May 2014. From summer 2011 onwards the weapon was in use operationally with US Army snipers deployed to Afghanistan under ISAF.



'ALL AMERICAN' SNIPERS

US 82nd Airborne Division - Report & Images by Carl Schulze

The 82nd Airborne Division 'All American' is the only airborne formation of the US Army and nearly all its personnel are parachute jump qualified. The division can field nine parachute infantry battalions and three airborne cavalry squadrons as its combat forces. Each of these battalion-size units can field a Sniper Section, making the snipers of the 82nd Airborne an elite within the elite.

Neutralising targets with high precision and at long range is only one task of the snipers of the 82nd Airborne Division. Their main mission is not just to pull the trigger of a sniper rifle, as within the parachute infantry battalions and the airborne cavalry squadrons the snipers serve as a versatile and highly capable reconnaissance asset. They have the ability to monitor the enemy from well camouflaged positions over

Main Image: The snipers of the 82nd Airborne Division 'All American' were among the first to be issued with the XM2010 ESR as seen here during CJOAX 15-1 in North Carolina

Right: A well camouflaged sniper team of the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment has taken up a position in a hedge - weapons carried by shooter and spotter are XM2010 ESR and M110 SASS



a longer period of time and by doing so improve the situational awareness of the battalion headquarters and even higher commands.

Deployed by parachute or helicopter, the airborne snipers can operate behind enemy lines in order to gather intelligence or to conduct sniping

missions. They can also identify targets for the artillery and close air support assets as well as transmit target data to the battalion HQ. In their function as snipers they can neutralise high value targets at long range with high precision. They are also able to provide overwatch for other assets of the battalion, to conduct blocking actions, to demoralise



enemy forces through accurate fire and to conduct counter-sniper operations.

While they can be employed for longer periods of time if necessary, the sniper teams can usually sustain themselves for a period of 96 hours without receiving any external support. During a three-day mission each member of the sniper team will carry a load of about 60 to 90 pounds.

SNIPER SECTION

Each of the parachute infantry battalions and airborne cavalry squadrons of the 82nd Airborne Division features one Sniper Section. This section belongs to the Recon Platoon of the unit, which falls under its Headquarters and Headquarters Company. In addition to the Sniper Section, the Recon Platoon consists of three Scout Sections and a command element. The Sniper Section features three Sniper Teams. Each team number three soldiers and consist of the team leader, the shooter and the spotter, all of them fully trained snipers.

The following sniper weapons are available within the teams: the .300 Winchester Magnum bolt action X/M2010 Enhanced Sniper Rifle (ESR); the semi-automatic 7.62x51mm M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS) and the semi-automatic 12.7x99mm M107 Semi-Automatic Long Range Sniper Rifle (LRSR). Which weapon or weapons mix the teams actually use usually depends on the mission and type of target.

The snipers of the 82nd Airborne Division regard the M110 SASS as their primary sniper weapon. While

Above: Sniping is actually not the main task of the snipers of the 82nd Airborne Division 'All American' as 80% of their missions serve reconnaissance or intelligence gathering purposes

Right: Wearing a Ghillie Suit a sniper of the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment advances along a tree line - he is armed with the semi-automatic 7.62mm Semi-Automatic Sniper System rifle

1: The AN/PVS-30 Clip-on Sniper Night Sight can be used with the scopes of the X/M2010 ESR and the M110 SASS allowing snipers to engage targets during periods of limited visibility and low light levels

**Images ©
Carl Schulze**



inferior in accuracy to the X/M2010 ESR, the semi-automatic weapon still allows them to engage targets out to a distance of 800 metres and on top of that offers the possibility to fire several rounds in quick succession. If high precision is required the X/M2010 ESR is used, and for long range sniping and technical targets the M107 LRSR. In addition to the two latter weapons, the shooter also carries a 5.56x45mm M4A1 carbine during operations.

SNIPER TRAINING

The sniper training for the paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division is conducted at the Sniper School in Fort Benning, Georgia. The basic US Army sniper course is seven

weeks long. The training days are long and crammed with lessons, practical training and shooting exercises. If a trainee misses more than four hours of the training he has automatically failed the course.

The first week of the training is mainly dedicated to stalking, practising range estimations and target detection. During the second week the students learn the basics of ballistic and are introduced to the M110 SASS. In the third week shooting with the M110 SASS is part of the training as well as gathering data with the weapon. The week ends with a written exam covering everything the students have learned since the start of the course





Left: The snipers of the 82nd Airborne Division operate in teams of three consisting of a team leader, a spotter and a shooter - here the spotter and shooter can be seen using an XM2010 ESR

Right: Patch of the 82nd Airborne Division 'All American' - this is the only airborne division of the US Army and nearly all its personnel are parachute jump qualified



and which every student has to pass.

Week four sees the trainees being introduced to the X/M2010 ESR. In addition, a series of night shoots with night vision devices is conducted. During week number five the trainees have to pass an unknown distance qualification, conduct shots on moving targets and are taught to handle the 9x19mm M9 pistol. The sixth week

is dedicated to alternative shooting positions, such as the back position. During this week the students are also introduced to the M107 LRSR and write the final exam. The seventh and last week of the course features a field training exercise that ends with the final shot, a live fire test that the students have to master.

Upon graduation from Sniper School the

sniper is attached to a team within the Sniper Section of his battalion. Following this he is given several chances to further improve his skills, for example by visiting the Mountain Scout Sniper Course at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) in Bridgeport, California. Here he learns to engage targets in mountainous terrain above and below his own position at extreme angles.



Equipment fielded by 82nd Airborne Division snipers. Weapons are the .300 Winchester Magnum bolt action XM2010 ESR, the semi-automatic 7.62mm M110 SASS and the semi-automatic 12.7mm M107 LRSR. Also shown are AN/PVS-30 Clip-on Sniper Night Sight, M151 Sniper Spotting Scope, Manfrotto 055CXPR03 tripod with weapon rest attached and Kestrel 4500NV Applied Ballistics Meter

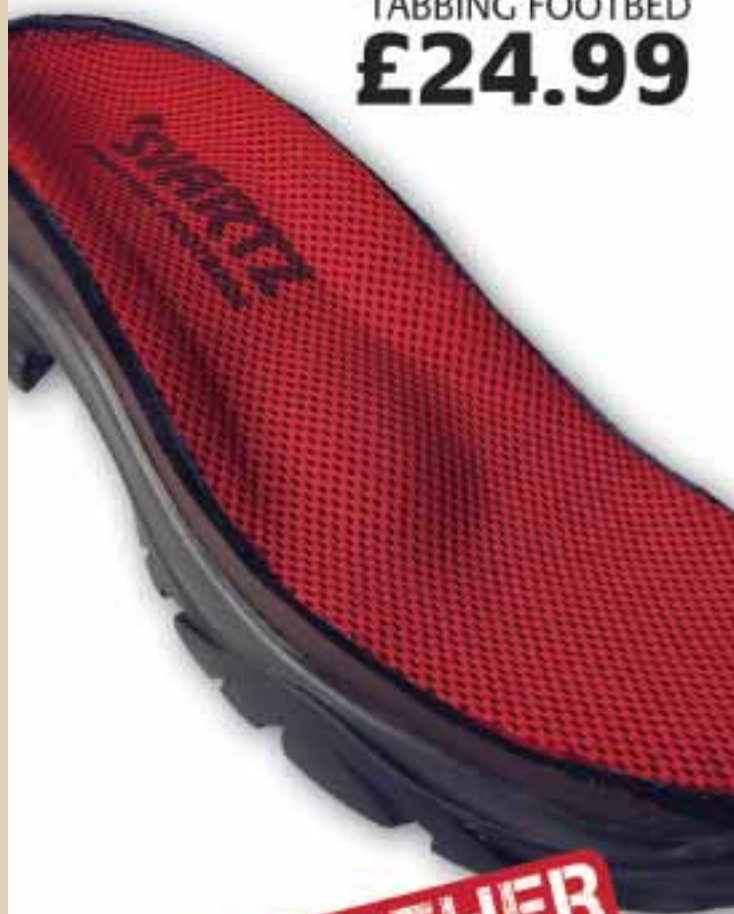
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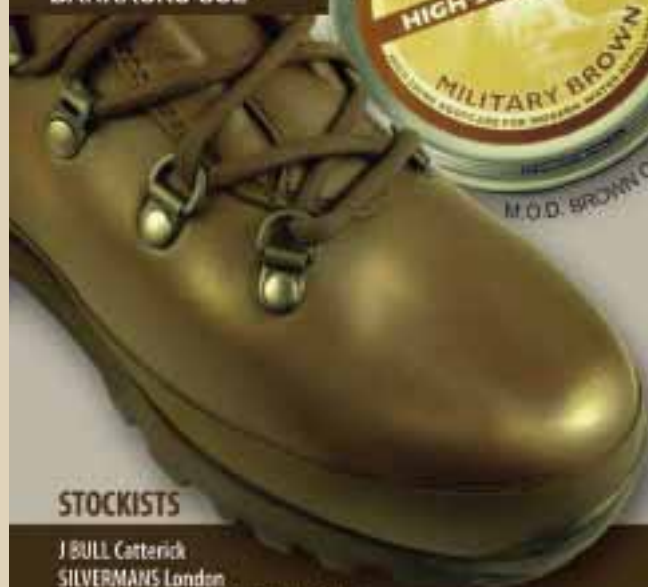
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KAJMAN DEFENDER

Czech Airborne RDV

By Bob Morrison

The US High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), more commonly referred to as the Hum-vee, is an extremely capable rough terrain vehicle across wide open spaces like the US deserts and prairies, but its size and weight can go against it in certain circumstances. During the 1991 Gulf War, where expanses of soft sand and sabkha (thin crust salt flats) were often encountered, the Hum-vee had a tendency to flounder and once it did so digging out its massive bulk was discovered to be problematic. It was also too wide to be transported inside helicopters by clandestine Special Operations Forces.

Main Image: Czech Para KAJMAN Defender 130 with 12.7mm main armament traversed to rear during NOBLE JUMP '15 on Zagan Training Area

1: Two of the crew of a KAJMAN lay down supporting fire during a Special Operations assault - the driver is with the vehicle but the other three have dismounted on the far side



Britain's Special Air Service, in contrast, had a seemingly excellent light utility vehicle at their disposal in the shape of the almost off-the-shelf Land Rover One-Ten DPV (Desert Patrol Vehicle), which could not only fit inside the CH-47 Chinook Transport helicopter but was also light enough to operate effectively in sand and scree deserts. As a consequence,

immediately after Gulf War One finished the US Rangers went to Land Rover's Government & Military Operations team, headed up at that time by George Adams, with a 'fag packet' design for a heli-transportable rapid deployment vehicle based on the standard Defender 110 model, which needed to transport up to six fully armed Rangers and also carry a .50cal heavy



This KAJMAN photographed at IDET '15 in May is armed with a 12.7mm NSV (modern version of the DShK) machinegun and one 7.62mm PKB machinegun

machinegun or Mk.19 grenade launcher on a ring mount. The R-SOV, or Rangers Special Operations Vehicle, was born.

The Royal Marines and British Army WMIK (Weapons Mount Installation Kit) family of Land Rover Rapid Deployment vehicles, first used operationally in Sierra Leone and later in both Afghanistan and Iraq, built upon the foundations laid by the R-SOV but these conversions used the conventional 3-door body style rather than the 5-door body derived from the Station Wagon, which the Rangers opted for. A small number of nations including Turkey, as we saw back in the February and March issues, opted for the 5-door R-SOV configuration rather than the 3-door WMIK, but only the Czech Army appears to have procured both types.

Although the Army of the Czech Republic (ACR) operationally deployed both WMIK and R-SOV versions on the Defender 110



chassis, these appear to have been stopgap procurements made on what the UK would call an Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) basis until they could design a vehicle which better suited their precise requirements. In 2009 this tailor-made solution entered service as the LAND ROVER DEFENDER - MILITARY ARMoured 4, though

Above: The large swing-away stowage pannier at the rear usually carries the foul weather canopy and removable windscreen panels etc.

it is nicknamed the KAJMAN (as in Caiman crocodile) on official documentation.

Procured specifically for the elite 43rd Airborne Battalion of the 4th Rapid Deployment Brigade, which is the core of the Czech Republic's contribution to NATO's new Very High Readiness Joint Task Force



The sixth crew member of this KAJMAN racing forward at Zagan has left his seat and is perched on the stowage basket - both machineguns are PKBs



Second pair of seats can swivel outwards to allow the Paras to cover both sides with their assault rifles and speedily dismount into action

(VJTF) spearhead formation, each of these vehicles can transport a fully-equipped six-man squad of paratroopers plus two support weapons. The base vehicle is a stretched wheelbase Defender 130 with a combination body which mates Station Wagon lower panels to a High Capacity Pick Up rear tray, over which is fitted a removable roll cage which also carries a ring mount for the primary armament.

Three different armament configurations are fielded: Type a) carries one 12.7mm NSV machinegun and one 7.62mm PKB machinegun; Type b) carries two 7.62mm PKB machineguns; and Type c) carries one 30mm

2: Six KAJMAN Defenders allocated to NATO's VJTF are flown forward by USAF C-17 Globemaster III at the start of NOBLE JUMP '15 [1 GNC pool photo]

3: This KAJMAN photographed on the ranges in 2010 has a 20mm AGS 17 as main armament - tubular rail limits depression over cab [© Zdenek Novák]

3





4



AGS 17 automatic grenade launcher and one 7.62mm PKB machinegun. Combat weight for the KAJMAN Kolový Bojový Prostředek (CAIMAN Wheeled Combat Vehicle), which is powered by a 4-cylinder 2402cc Ford Duratorq 'Puma' engine, is between 3900kg and 4100kg and top speed is limited to 110km/hr (c.70mph).

According to information released by

the Czech MoND, front and rear lower protection for the vehicle corresponds to STANAG 4569 Level One and, though not fitted in the accompanying photos, the KAJMAN has an underside blast protection armour plate similar to that seen on the British E-WMIK and R-WMIK models. Armoured plates are also noticeable ahead of driver and commander and removable ballistic glass



Despite its extended wheelbase the Defender 130 KAJMAN still has reasonably good cross-country performance in addition to being heli-portable

4: Easily removable softskin doors and windscreen panels have been refitted to this KAJMAN along with its foul weather kit - its weapons mount has been removed

windscreen panels can also be fitted. Usually these vehicles are fielded without doors, but it appears both armoured and unarmoured doors are available, as is a foul weather canopy kit.

All KAJMAN Defenders have a bumper-mounted WARN winch for self-recovery, a pair of twin jerrycan racks mounted on the front brushguard, a large hooded central



headlight for tactical night driving, and Australian SASR Perentie-type tubular strengtheners from brushguard back to D-post chassis outrigger which double as running boards. At the rear there is a near full width swing-away stowage pannier, which doubles as a rear compartment door, in which the foul weather canopy can be stored.

Normal crew for these vehicles is six, with the commander up beside the driver manning the secondary PKB machinegun, the gunner stands in the ring mount, two Paras sit on swivelling seats at the forward end of the rear compartment and a sixth Para sits on a swivelling seat at the rear right. There is also a jump seat for the gunner on the loadbed behind the second row of seats for when he does not need to man the main weapon. The five full seats have mesh panels for comfort

Main Image: This line-up of KAJMAN Defenders carries four six-man squads of Paras along with one 12.7mm and seven 7.62mm machineguns

5: The same four vehicles from the rear - there are five vehicles to a platoon but the 5th was on static display - another platoon sits in front of them

Images © Bob Morrison unless noted

in hot climates. Although I have not seen photos confirming this, I suspect that for active operations MAPIK-style lightweight soft armour panels would be fitted to the rear section of the roll cage in the same way that they were fielded on the 4-man Czech Defender 110 SOV

used by 601st Special Forces Group in Afghanistan.

The two static shots of the 'clean' KAJMAN were taken at the IDET expo in Brno but the remainder were shot during Exercise NOBLE JUMP '15 in Poland.



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A soldier in Czech camouflage gear is operating a machine gun mounted on a vehicle. The soldier is wearing a helmet with a camouflage pattern and is looking through the sights of the weapon. The vehicle is olive green and has various equipment on it, including a large metal box and a smaller box with a handle. The background shows green trees.

Kit & Camo

CZECH PARA NCO

43rd Airborne Battalion 2015

by Bob Morrison



The uniform featured this month is no stranger to **Kit & Camo** as 'Q', our former quartermaster who retired a few years back, covered it in some depth way back in our August 2003 issue. Generally described as being vzor (pattern) '95, usually abbreviated to vz.95, but often described as Czech 'Leaf' pattern by collectors, this camouflage actually entered service two years earlier. Twelve years ago, having established that it entered service earlier than many sources stated, 'Q' tried to convince camo collectors that it should really be called vz.93 but as he was unsuccessful we will stick with convention.

A four-colour pattern originally experimentally conceived around 1985 for what then was Czechoslovakia, the design relies heavily on the US Army's 1948 ERDL (Engineer Research and Development Laboratory) pattern which eventually evolved into the US Army's M81 Woodland camo. Following the amicable 1991 split into the Czech and Slovak Republics,



the Czechs resurrected the stalled vz.85 project design but with colour variations which toned down the chocolate brown and bottle green shades while retaining lime green and black.

Some commentators, possibly working mainly from photographs or from small samples, suggest that three shades of green plus black are used, and indeed from a distance this camo does appear to be quite verdant. However having handled uniforms and recently compared (and photographed) seven different large sample swatches of different fabrics approved by the ACR (Army of the Czech Republic) for the manufacturer of uniforms my opinion is that the colours are essentially Pastel Green, Khaki Drab, Earth Brown and Black. Having said that, the Khaki Drab and Earth Brown shades can vary from fabric to fabric and, like most IRR-treated fabrics, colours

On the previous two pages we saw that the Para NCO in Czech vz.95 'Leaf' camo was wearing a predominantly green jacket and predominantly brown trousers. Well, believe it or not, the above photograph is actually of the back of that very same 'green' jacket, but as the sun had now punched through the clouds it appeared to be more brownish to both eye and camera. For reference, these two Czech SF operators (right) carry MultiCam bergens.

can both fade with washing and/or exposure to strong sunlight and appear substantially different to both eye and camera in certain light conditions.

The Czech Para NCO who kindly agreed to pose for **C&S** appears to be wearing two different camouflage patterns - i.e. predominantly green jacket and predominantly brown trousers - but this difference is mostly to do with wear and different level of exposure to sunlight.



THE REGIMENT

15 YEARS IN THE SAS

RUSTY FIRMIN

One of the longest-serving members of the SAS tells all in this incredible book that traces his 15-year career in 'The Regiment'. Uncovering the events of the Iranian Embassy siege, in which he played a key role, through to revealing previously unknown details about Operation Mikado, the planned incursion into Argentina during the Falklands War, and an account of the secret war between the SAS and IRA in Northern Ireland, *The Regiment* lifts the veil on the world's most famous – and secretive – Special Forces unit.

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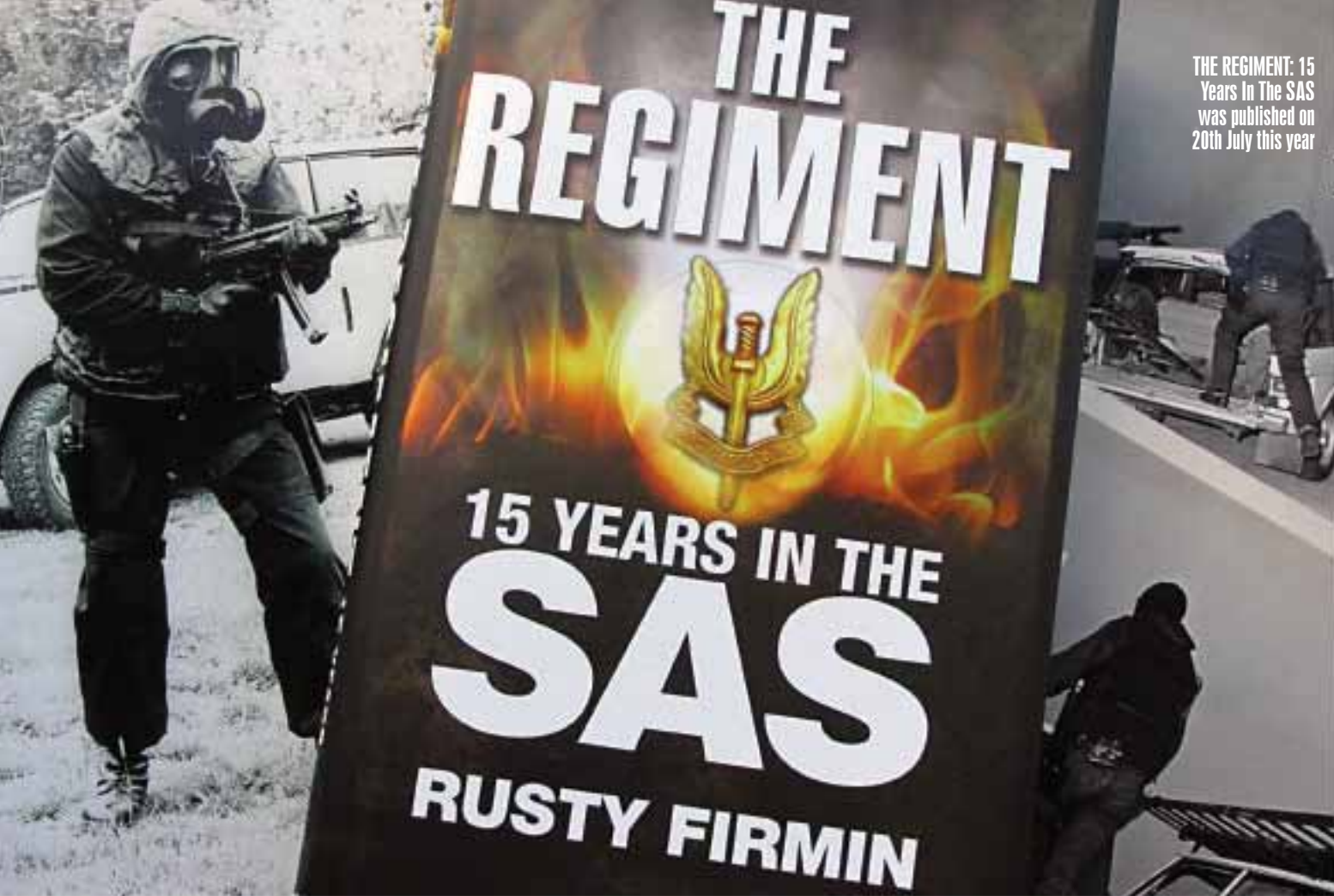


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THE REGIMENT: 15 Years In The SAS was published on 20th July this year

RUSTY FIRMIN

THE REGIMENT: Fifteen Years In The SAS

Interviewed by Bob Morrison

Just after 7:20pm on a Bank Holiday Monday evening in May 1980 former Royal Artillery bombardier Rusty Firmin stepped into the history books. The occasion was, of course, Operation NIMROD and Rusty was the gloveless NCO leading Blue Team from B Squadron of 22 SAS in the dramatic mission which rescued 19 out of 20 hostages held by six gunman inside the Iranian Embassy in London. In 2010, at the time of the 30th anniversary of what many consider to be the most iconic counter-terrorism operation of the modern era, Rusty co-authored *Go! Go! Go!* which was a highly detailed account of the rescue.

On Monday 20th July Rusty's latest book was published but, other than in one chapter, Op

NIMROD does not really feature much as this biography first chronicles his path through life and the British Army until he joined 'The Regiment' then focuses on those fifteen years out of his 27-year career which he served with the Special Air Service. Running out to close on 300 pages, the book covers previously seldom mentioned missions in Northern Ireland and Operation MIKADO, the proposed 'suicide' mission to insert two C-130 Hercules transport aircraft full of SAS Troopers and 'Pink Panther' Silla Land Rovers behind enemy lines on the Argentinian half of Tierra del Fuego to take out Super Etendard aircraft and Exocet missiles during the Falklands Conflict in 1982.

Today Rusty has put soldiering, and Private Military Contracting, behind him as he concentrates

on helping injured soldiers through the Pilgrim Bandits Forces Charity (pilgrimbandits.org), of which he is an ambassador. A few days before *THE REGIMENT - 15 Years In The SAS* (ISBN: 978-1-472811318) was published by Osprey Publishing, **C&S** visited Rusty's farmhouse to chat to him about his new book, the past and the future. We have now read the biography cover to cover and will bring you a review next month but in the meantime here, told in his own words, is the story of how Rusty joined the British Army and ended up serving in 'The Regiment' during that period when it dramatically reappeared in public view, but this time in its previously secretive Counter-Terrorist role. It is a fascinating tale, recounted in much more detail in his new book.

Bob: Rusty, could you tell C&S readers a little bit about your early history. I know you were adopted and grew up in Carlisle; before you got to the end of your schooling what were you thinking of doing with your life?

Rusty: My schooling was unhappy. I was heading nowhere. I was a Rolling Stones fan; tight powder blue jeans, Cuban heel boots and long hair. I had no prospects whatsoever. I got caught stealing duck's eggs from a farmer's barn; there were two of us, me and George. The farmer took me back home and I got a really big bollocking

fitness test, and was head and shoulders above the rest. I won the cross-country by a long way. Academically, having gone to lots of different schools [Rusty's adoptive father was in the military when he was young], I wasn't heading anywhere I'm afraid. So I did the test and they decided that Rusty was going to become a Junior Leader; a fifteen year old in the Army. I went along with it. I was going nowhere and was tricked into going into the Army. September 1965 was when I went into the Junior Leaders.

Bob: Why did you choose the Royal Artillery, or did the Royal Artillery choose you?

Rusty: I didn't. The recruiting office looked at my written stuff and they decided. The warrant came through for the train and it had been decided it was going to be Junior Leaders, Royal Artillery. There was no take your pick. It was their choice.

The Junior Leaders Regiment RA were

based in Nuneaton in Warwickshire. So I joined there as a fifteen year old and went through the system, within three months having completed my basic training. The first parade after that three months was the only time in my life that I have fainted on a parade, a bit of an embarrassment, but that's what happened.

During those three months before I was due to go home for my first leave, if I could have got my hands on £50, which was a lot of money in '65, I would have bought myself out. The only saving grace after that was when I came back from leave, not being able to raise that £50, I knew that I had been spotted playing football. On the day of the parade I was spotted by Paddy O'Brien, who was the guy who ran the JLR RA football team.

By then I had already started to grow - I grew ten and a half inches while I was in the Army - and he said: "I watched you playing football and when you come back off leave I'd like you to come to football training with the regiment, the Junior Leaders, and see how you get on. And that's what I did.

All of a sudden I felt I was worth something to somebody. In reality, that was really the saving grace for me, as I went on to play for the British Army and had professional trials as well, with Arsenal, but I was never an Arsenal supporter. That was the start. Somebody wanted me, rather than Rusty being the pain in the arse, the other way round, thinking the world was against him.

I started to enjoy what I was doing. Lots of physical stuff. Skiing in Norway with the Junior Leaders. Anything for me to get out of a uniform and get into sports kit, I was involved in. And that is what took me through the Junior Leaders. I made the regimental team, I played for them all the time I was there, and it was the football that preceded me after leaving Junior Leaders.

Bob: Where did you go with the Royal Artillery?

Rusty: I went from Junior Leaders to Barnard Castle, up in County Durham as it was then, to 49 Field Regiment. They were actually the regiment I asked to go to. Funnily enough I had some friends in Four Nine who had finished just before me, so I put the regiment down and I got it.

From there we went down to support the School of Artillery at Larkhill, where they run all the courses. Once again I got into the football big time in Four Nine. We still had a couple of guys from National Service hanging around who were good footballers and they got me in the team. I never looked back from then. Once again it was football, cricket and everything else, where I got involved in my time off, though it was football I was really interested in.

Bob: So did football take you through the military or did the military take you away from football?

Rusty: No, no. I stayed with football. I used to play in Larkhill, for example, sometimes playing five or six games a week. I played for civilian teams like West Lavington, for one, and then I might play for Market Lavington in the afternoon. So my football, even when I got to Larkhill and was starting to do lots of gun courses and I was getting promoted up to bombardier, continued. They reckon had I stayed in there I'd probably have done really well, but I had itchy feet and moved from there to Germany after a few years, to Hohne where, I think if I had stayed



off my Old Man. He came up with a cunning plan - he wasn't really my father though I knew him as my father. I was adopted at 14 months of age, which didn't help. I found that out many years later. I didn't know who my real parents were and have never met them to this day.

The Old Man's cunning plan was that instead of the police coming to get me, how about I joined the Army? So I got dragged down to the recruiting office. All I'd ever done was paper boy; I was the guy that used to write down the addresses on the top of the papers so that the other boys could go and deliver them. That was all I had done before I was fifteen [the School Leaving Age in England prior to 1972].

I always had a huge passion for football and always wanted to play but, at five foot two and weighing seven stone..... A couple of guys who played in the school team, six-footers, were England schoolboy footballers but I couldn't even get in the team so the chances of me becoming a professional footballer slipped away.

So, I went to the recruiting office, did the

there, I would probably have turned into an alcoholic like a lot of guys.

Once again I was involved with football, with German teams, I played with Nach Hermansberg. I was playing with BAOR (British Army on the Rhine) by then, playing for the regiment and playing for the battery. Everything revolved around football, but I had a social life with this. I didn't go to the pub every minute of the day, like a lot of guys when they weren't working. There was nothing else to do in places like Hohnhe.

I used to run down to Belsen from Bergen on a weekend, three miles down and three miles back, have a wander round the camps and stuff. Other than pubs or sport there was just nothing to do there as a single guy. Football, once again, was really my saving grace.

Then we started Northern Ireland tours. I did a couple of tours with Four Nine, cutting the last one short, but while I was there I started doing the long walks. The first one was Saint-Jean-de-Luz to Perpignan, over the Pyrénées, coast to coast. It's 400 kilometres. In ten days we walked it all the way. Three of us finished it; an officer, the sergeant-major and myself. Things like that I didn't find hard at all. Then it was the Great Divide Trail over in Canada, the Italian Alps, things like that. It was all physical fitness really.

Once I could see where I was heading, although I was okay rank wise as I was up to bombardier and had passed all my gun courses, it was now just a matter of where I was heading next. I was getting bored. And then I met some guys playing for the gunners back in the UK. They used to take you back from Germany to play for the gunners, to represent your corps. One of them was from 29 Commando, Stu, and the other guy was from 7 Para RHA, and they both wanted me to go to their unit.

So there was 7 Para in Aldershot and 29 Commando were in Plymouth. My mindset then was that I didn't really want to go and spend a lot of time in Aldershot. It was all-right going back there to play football for the Artillery in tournaments, but I didn't see Aldershot as a place I could see myself settling down. So I thought no, I'll go and do the Commando Course, and that's what I did. I volunteered for it.

I was in Northern Ireland at the time. They accepted my application and a month before the Ireland tour finished it was "pack your bags you're back off to Germany, then pack all your kit, you're off to Plymouth to do your Commando Course, best of luck, if

anything goes wrong you're coming back." But I was determined it wasn't going to go wrong.

So I went down to Plymouth. That's where I met my good old pal John McAleese, with the moustache. People like that were on the same course as me. They were trying to get in 59 Commando [Royal Engineers] and I was trying to get in 29 Commando on the artillery side. We were together, a little team of guys, in our social time we used to hang around together. The initial training for the Commandos was what



Rusty in his back garden in 2015 - he is still very fit, has all his own hair and only gave up competitive football when approaching his 60th birthday [© Bob Morrison]

they call a 'beat-up'. The first month was done at Plymouth and the people who got through were selected for the All-Arms training course. I passed, John passed, and we were off to Lympstone to do the Commando Course. We passed this, together, and were presented with our green berets.

After we finished the Commando Course, which was quite robust on the physical side, I was then put in 145 Battery to start with but the football got in the way a bit with work. I had been in the battery for about a year, maybe less, when they gave me half an option. They wanted me in the battery because I was a good soldier, but at the same time there was a vacancy coming up at the Commando Training Wing. Well, I was a fitness fanatic anyway, so I said: "When?" They said if I left the battery at that moment the vacancy was there.

There was a couple of other guys on the Training Wing. I thought I've only been on the battery less than a year, but if they see something in me... So I decided to go to the Wing. It meant I could keep myself fit. It meant I might miss out on certain tours and stuff with the battery, but I was now in the position to teach new guys coming into the Commandos. I was part of a team of guys that when gunners came in we'd do the 'beat-up' with them and get them ready. So there was an end product there and it was nice to be involved in taking these guys through. I'd been through it myself. My job was to get them ready, help them and try to get them fit and through to their second phase at Lympstone so they could earn their green beret.

I did that for a couple of years and everything went well. There was a bit of time off between courses and it was easy to get into adventure training and so on. I did my parachute course in between, and things like that you could fit in to fill your time. But in time I got a bit bored again. I was playing a lot of football, though it wasn't interfering with my work because I was on Training Wing. Then one day I let a thunderflash off when I got a bit bored. I put it inside a bedside locker, and they went "That's about it!"

I thought: "Hmm, I didn't do myself any favours there." So I took another step back and thought: "I'm getting on a bit." I was now around the 26 mark and if I did [SAS] Selection again I'd probably like to do it around 23. I knew some of the guys that had volunteered for it had passed and some had been RTU'd, Returned To Unit, so I thought it was now or never and so put in my papers for it. Of course Selection is voluntary.

That was 1976, so in between courses I went up to the Brecon Beacons with my bergen and stuff and took off in the summer of '76, and it was hot, really hot. I got to know the Beacons over a period of time and was just waiting for the papers to come through. Again I met up with John 'Mac' McAleese, a good friend, 'Ginge' and 'Killer'. The coincidence here is that they were stationed up in Arbroath with Five Nine and I was still in Plymouth and the next time we met, after our 'beat-up', with no mobile phones in these days to keep in touch, was on the top of Pen y Fan. I had come up from the other side, from the Storey Arms side, and by the trig point it was like a reunion. I said: "What's going on here?" Mac said: "We're going for Selection." I said: "So am I".

Continued next month.....

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The toe area is well protected against abrasion - here you can also see the complex and grippy tread pattern

Main Image: The UA Valsetz boots are a bit different to look at but are comfortable and well specified

1: Inside the boot your foot is well catered for with substantial padding around the ankle and tongue

2: The sole design is unusual but gives very good shock absorption - heel is well protected too

UNDER ARMOUR VALSETZ TACTICAL BOOT

I have to confess these boots, supplied by Top of the Range, have been on my 'to do' list for a while now, waiting for a suitable trip to give them a fair try. As they are a hot climate boot the trial conditions needed to be dry and warm.

At last it happened, when I went over to Belgium for the 200-year commemoration of the Battle of Waterloo. This turned out to be an ideal time to try these out as it was very warm and mostly dry. I walked a lot and was on my feet for many hours over long days. I can now tell you, these boots turned out to be very comfortable. The slightly unusual looking soles give a good level of cushioning and seem to give good grip. I do wonder if this inherent softness will reduce their life if used hard

when carrying heavy weights, and only time will tell, but certainly for my use, carrying reasonable weight, they were just fine.

The uppers are soft, comfortable and ideal for the hot dry environments they are designed for. Importantly these boots are extremely light in weight; even in my large size (UK 13). The heels and toes are well protected against abrasion. The lace fixings are plastic and work well and seem to be tough enough. The were ideal for my needs.

Personal Survival

**EDZ FULL ZIP
MICROFLEECE
MIDLAYER**

Regulars will know I am a bit of an EDZ fan now. This light fleece jacket has proved to be one of those garments I use a lot; mostly, it must be said, around home base and it has taken the place of my EDZ Yeti over the warmer months.

Most days it is the first thing I put on to ward off morning chill. Very comfortable 'next to skin' but it also makes a very packable, light top/ mid/ base/ layer to take along. Perhaps much warmer and more comfortable than it may look on a shop hanger. Seen in the photo here worn in conjunction with EDZ's Merino T-shirt, these make a great combination Well worth a look as far as I am concerned.

The EDZ Merino T-shirt works well with the micro fleece or, as here, on its own



The EDZ Micro fleece very much a multi-use garment

3

**BIOLITE NANO GRID**

Regular readers will be aware of the Biolite wood stoves, previously reviewed in these pages. The Nano Grid is a handy add-on that can work with the Biolite or separately if need be, as an area lighting set-up with a separate Power Light.

The Power Light has an integrated rechargeable battery that plugs into the Biolite or any other power source. This can be free standing or hand held and is the power source for the Site Lights. All are independently switched so you can control the lighting as required. The plentiful cables wind into the lights.

When powered by the Biolite stove this is 'free' light and offers a very flexible lighting system for anything from a wild camping trip to a home BBQ in the garden.

3: The Nano Grid puts out a lot of light if required but each unit is individually controllable - really handy in lots of situations

4: Two general lights plus the base unit - itself having a general light and a torch - which contains the battery and controls the other lights



EAGLE CREEK FLASHPOINT ROLLING DUFFEL

There are a good few ways out there of containing and moving your valued kit. On a few trips of late I taken this Eagle Creek Rolling Duffel and have to say at the outset was a bit of a sceptic, but by the time I got home any doubts had been turned around.

For a start it arrived all rolled up, which did not seem quite right. But this is good. It can be packed away into its own, supplied 'stuff pouch', which is great as when not in use it is easy to store both when on travels and when back at home. The stuff pouch comes in very handy on



Right: The Eagle Creek Flashpoint, seen here in the snow, is well able to stand up to rugged treatment and also manages to keep the weather and your kit separated

5: This is a substantial duffel with the added bonus of its own stuff bag which doubles as a boot bag

6: The Rollers on the bottom of the Eagle Creek are both practical and robust

7: The Water Tank can be rolled up quite small when not in use

Images ©
or via
Mike Gormley



the trip as a shoe bag or similar, as it has a Velcro closure and carry handle. Bonus!

The version I trialled is the XL 128-litre, so has plenty of room for kit. It has wheels which is good, large and very durable wheels, which is even better. These are well able to deal with the humps and bumps and broken paving slabs and curbs one has to negotiate. I was doubtful at first as this is not a ridged bag, but when full of kit it seems to be quite fine and only has a fabric handle which again proved to be perfectly usable. The lack of a metal frame and slide-out handle all saves valuable weight and in these days of very picky check-in staff every kilo counts.

The only ridged part of the Flashpoint is the wheel carriage

and this also offers a small zipped internal stowage pouch. Substantial carry straps, a removable shoulder strap and compression straps are all included. The sturdy lockable zip has a weather cover and, as proved on my trip when bags were left out in pouring rain and snow, on open trolleys, this and the Bi Tech material are perfectly able to keep the rain out.

All in all a very good travel bag and one which will definitely be with me on my forthcoming trips.



In use the handles work well both to carry and to pour - the top opens completely for cleaning



PLATYPUS 4-LITRE WATER TANK

Moving and containing water is a necessary task. This 4-litre container is a good one for base camp or as a 'carry with' for use when camped up. Empty it packs flat.

Iwould not recommend this to carry water inside your pack, as the top closure is a press fit 'zip', but it does work well. It allows for complete opening to clean so this could be used to collect water of unknown quality for treatment prior to use. It carries easily with the handles and also pours well. Also works well as a watering can for the garden and flower pots. Truly multi-purpose!



Personal Survival



FOOD ON THE MOVE FROM MOUNTAIN TRAILS

Freeze-dried foods are now commonplace on the civvy side as well as in some military ration packs. I did a brief heads-up on these recently, as I had not had a chance to use them, but since then I can report that these have been used by our Dartmoor Ten Tors teams and have gained a few ticks of approval from them.

Team Manger Jamie, who first introduced me to these, has been very complimentary, especially about his favourite the Chicken and Cous Cous. He does comment on the importance of getting the amount of water and timings correct, which I know from other similar products can be important to critical. In my view longer is better.

I, too, have now had a chance to try more than a stolen spoonful so can report with more firsthand knowledge. Breakfast Porridge with Apple and Cranberry is very tasty and not at all bad to start your day with. I also tried the Chicken Cous Cous; I'm not quite as enthusiastic as Jamie, but that's personal choice. The Rice Pudding and Strawberries is very nice indeed.

The amount of food is not huge, but adequate, and I did a whole day out on a trek on these alone and did not feel 'wanting'. The packs being compact and narrow, which is good for the logistics side, does make it necessary to have a long spoon to avoid getting too messy when you eat but they are quite small so perhaps best to decant to a bowl. The pack corners are thoughtfully 'rounded' to avoid that annoying problem of those

8: A day's worth of food - note the pack depth even with a long spoon

9: A selection from the range of the Mountain Trails 'Food on the Move' pouches

Right: A very nice breakfast - note the rounded package corners to improve your chance of getting all the food out

last and valuable bits being trapped in the corners.

As I mentioned in my heads-up, I was impressed with the pack size of these rations. The volume of added gas is not there as these are vacuum packed, so making the pack space considerably less. A real bonus if you have to carry a few days rations with you and for packing in general where space is always an issue. Worthy of a try, both from the taste and transportation aspects.



SEALLINE SEE BAG 10-LITRE SEE THROUGH DRY BAG

Ways of keep your essential kit dry are always a good thing. A dry bag that you can see through is even better. You have been there? Groping around trying to find a 'thing' at the bottom of a bag. Being able to see it helps a whole lot.

The SealLine is made from robust transparent vinyl with a fold over and securable closure with integral D-ring so it can be secured to prevent loss overboard. There is a range of sizes available.

Right :The SealLine transparent dry bag has distinct advantages especially in this situation where it is used to store food so being able to see it saves unloading the bag to find a specific item



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A recent article in the UK media discussed how personnel leaving the Armed Services, or being made redundant, are potentially discriminated against when it comes to finding employment. Research revealed that Army service can put off potential employers; less than half of those questioned thought that serving in the Armed Forces was a positive attribute and the rest thought that it was one of the least attractive traits in a job-seeker. Many of those surveyed said they would look negatively at potential employees if they had been in the Armed Forces. The message that employees who have served in the Army have valuable man management skills is disseminated to civilian employers, but this is clearly not getting through. Why?

When it comes to the military there are some differences in the employment model that make any ex-serviceman, or woman, applying for their first job outside in 'civvy street' different from other applicants. The first is that most in the ranks join at a very young age, the majority having entered service straight from school with very little qualifications (apart from the technical trades, which ensure the applicant has GCSEs). Although there is the very occasional graduate that joins up as a private soldier, they tend to be quickly identified and commissioned before they can spend too long in the ranks - or they quickly become demoralised and leave. This is because the Army tends to manage everyone in the same generic manner

based on the majority, which have few educational qualifications. This would obviously be very frustrating for anyone with a keen brain who then tends to feel undervalued. If soldiers serve a full career of twenty-two years, or more, and then leave they will be having a civilian job interview which will be only their second job interview in their life, despite them being around forty.

To help them adjust, the soldier will have had resettlement training which teaches them to write a CV and helps rehearse job interviews. They also undertake a paid course in which they train in civilian skills such as bricklaying, plumbing or painting and decorating etc. Then there are Regimental Associations that will advise upcoming positions to apply for. The commissioned officer who leaves has much better prospects as they are mostly graduates to start with, then given a postgraduate qualification whilst at Staff College and they tend to spend their career with an ever watchful eye on jobs in the City or commerce. Commissioned officers also have a career coach in the manning and personnel centre to advise them and an organisation that helps them find a job; called the Officers Association, this 95 year old charity produces many resources including a handbook of names and phone numbers of ex-officers in commerce and industry who will help former officers find positions.

Service personnel have other issues to contend with in finding work, one of which is that those that haven't served assume that military

ROBERT SHAW OF OPTIMAL RISK MANAGEMENT LTD. (OPTIMALRISK.COM) IS A FORMER BRITISH ARMY ATO AND IEDD/ WIS OPERATOR TURNED EOD THREAT AND COUNTER-IED TRAINER AND CONSULTANT.

IMAGE © BOB MORRISON : MILITARY SCENE

management is all about a rigid and inflexible chain of command with no imagination, that is institutionalised and where everyone has authority through rank and does not have to have genuine people management skills. Some of the public believe that officers and NCOs just bark orders and their soldiers follow them, meaning there is no use of initiative and no-one must say anything outside of the official narrative. They also genuinely worry that some veterans of campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering from PTSD and excessive drinking; this hasn't been helped by reports that over half the UK homeless population are ex-servicemen.

What employers need to understand is that many of those from the ranks who have served a full career are only institutionalised because they were allowed to join as children and have known no other life. The Army has done everything for them and their wage is very high compared to their civilian counterpart with a similar lack of qualifications. Employers

must realise that, despite this facet, former service personnel have some of the best training in the world, including technical and man management skills, and it's not their fault that the Army does not offer them any meaningful qualification (such as a degree) or recognised certification in the way that the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force often do for their personnel.

But it's not only civilian employers that ex-soldiers have to worry about when trying to find employment. Many ex-military employers or managers will only seek to employ their friends or members of the same regiment, and then they also add the caveat of rank. Rather than experience and qualifications, the Army equates rank and time served with ability.

It is not just about educating employers to the skills that soldiers have, and getting a message out to them, but also helping the soldiers get meaningful academic qualifications over their twenty-two year first career, in the same way the US Army does, that will make them more attractively employable when they leave.

SERVING IN THE FORCES

Might It Harm Your Next Career?

- By Robert Shaw



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ULSTER ROVERS

Accurate Armour Resin Models - By Ian Young

The tail end of the 20th Century saw the introduction of a new type of scale model miniature, namely the multi-media kit. These new models comprised polyurethane resin, white metal and photo-etched brass components and numerous cottage industry manufacturers sprang up during this period, with one of foremost being Scottish-based Accurate Armour run by Derek Hansen. Since then Accurate Armour has grown into a large company, producing a wide range of kits and accessories designed for more accomplished modellers.

The Accurate Armour kits and conversion kits may cost a bit more than conventional kits, but they offer a range of models covering subjects that larger manufacturers generally ignore. This

Main Image: A very early Tangi photographed in 1988 inside Grosvenor Road police station (BM)

1: The Hotspur was based on the Series III long wheelbase Land Rover

2: Close comparison of the Hotspur with the full size early Tangi reveals common rear body design

Images courtesy Accurate Armour or © Bob Morrison

month I have details of three of Accurate Armour's products relating to armoured Land Rovers, with one full kit and two conversion kits.

HOTSPUR

First up is Accurate Armour's 1/35th scale resin complete kit depicting the later variant of the Hotspur



Armoured Land Rover, based on the 109" Series III Land Rover, that was developed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) in Northern Ireland. The later version, as



depicted here, was fitted with the 3.5-litre V8 engine and side skirts. This kit features full chassis, internal detail, comprehensive etched brass set, coloured clear castings and tinted 'armoured glass' windows, plus lights and beacons as well as full colour decals for both RUC and ITN News (the television company used the Hotspur in the Former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s).

The body is finely detailed to represent the plastic sheeting riveted to the body panels of later vehicles to protect from

3



4



rocks and stones thrown by protesters and full assembly and painting instructions and options for early or late vehicles are included.

The kit, Ref. LR011, retails at £65.00 in the EC with VAT included or £54.17 for export.

TANGI

Following on from their Hotspur kit, AA have released a 1/35th scale conversion set for the Hobby Boss Land Rover plastic construction kit. The resultant kit gives a Tangi, which was effectively a marriage of the Hotspur armoured body taken off leaf sprung Series III 109" chassis to the newer coil sprung One-Ten Land Rover chassis.

The set covers the early part of the Tangi service life, up to approximately 1999, whereupon the fleet was upgraded further, re-liveried and fitted with uprated chassis and the same engine as the contemporary military 110 'Wolf'; these later Tangi vehicles will be the subject of a future release. This conversion, which requires the use of the Hobby Boss Land Rover 110 kit, contains full internal and external detail, engine, rear axle and extensive etched brass mesh plus full complement of coloured clear castings for searchlights, beacons and tinted armoured glass. RUC

3: They have big seagulls in Belfast - this Accurate Armour Tangi has been beautifully weathered

4: This mid-era Tangi model has the raised 'Dawson' roof design and spaced upper side armour

5: A late model V8 Hotspur without side skirts photographed in 1988 - it was replaced by the Tangi

6: The CAV 100 'Snatch' was originally intended for British Army roulement battalions serving in Northern Ireland

7: Much maligned after pressed into service on Ops TELIC and HERRICK, the 'Snatch' was designed for public order duties



registrations, alternative markings and a pre-printed glazing sheet are also included.

The Accurate Armour Tangi package, Ref. LR012, retails at £50.00 in the EC or £41.67 for export.

CAV 100 'SNATCH'

To wrap up this month we have details of another 1/35th scale resin and etched brass conversion set depicting the British Army CAV100 'Snatch' (in its Northern Ireland version), and is designed to transform the 1/35th scale Hobby Boss Land Rover 110 or Wolf kits.

The set includes full upper body with interior, V8 engine and replacement axles, and a full set of road tyres with front mounted spare. All doors and bonnet can be placed open or closed and the roof hatch slides. Tinted armoured glass windows and clear coloured lights are also included along with a comprehensive set of etched brass mesh protection screens, wire cutter, rear step and many other smaller details. Full colour instructions and decals are provided and include a selection of vehicle registrations, tactical markings and telephone numbers.

Once again a Hobby Boss kit is required to complete this model, or alternatively you can use Accurate Armour's One Ten Chassis replacement set (LRA007), to make up a full kit. The CAV 100 kit, Ref. LR013, retails at £45.00 in the EC or £37.50 for export.

More information on these detailed kits, and the rest of the range of Land Rover kits available from Accurate Armour, can be found on their website at accurate-armour.com

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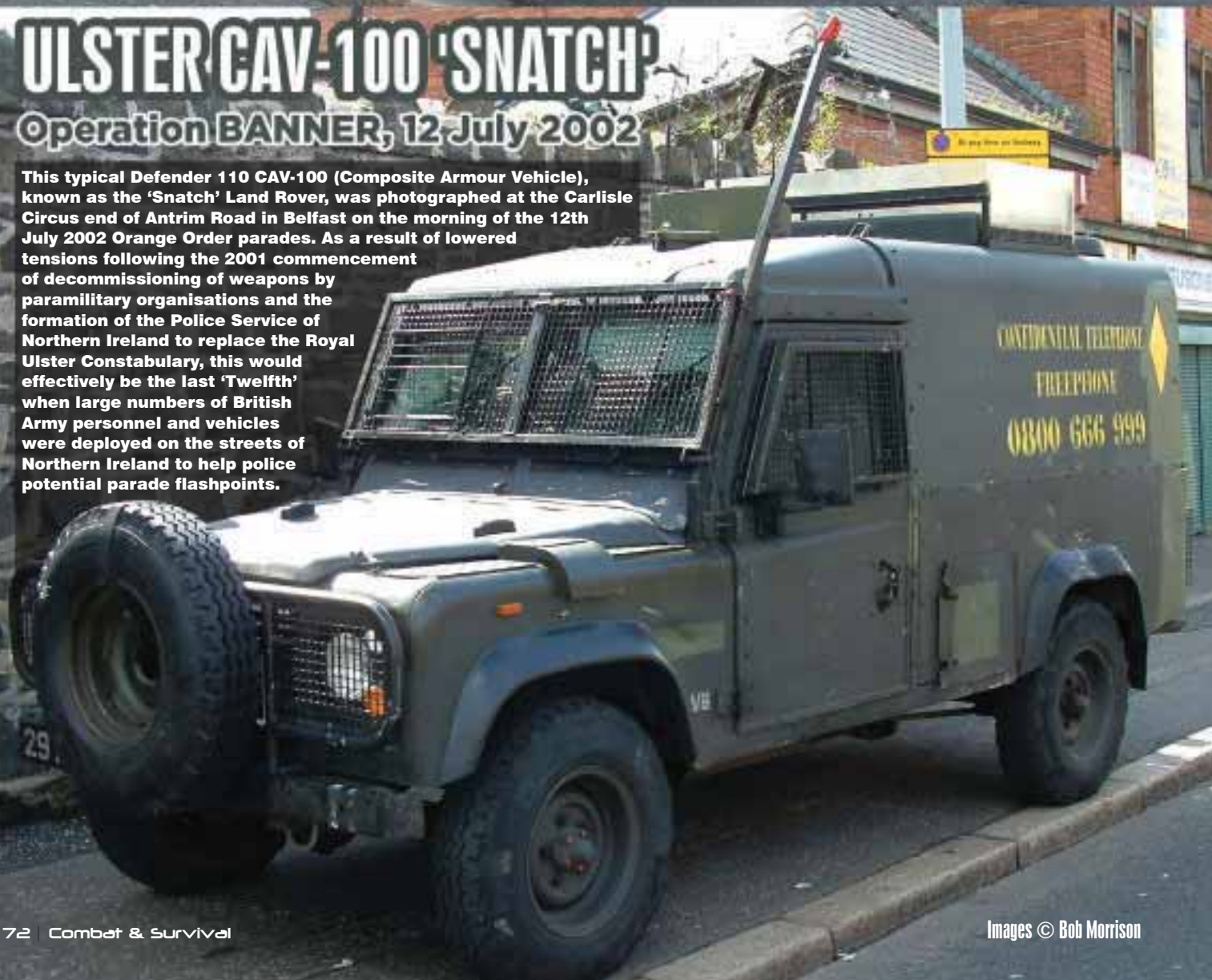




ULSTER CAV-100 'SNATCH'

Operation BANNER, 12 July 2002

This typical Defender 110 CAV-100 (Composite Armour Vehicle), known as the 'Snatch' Land Rover, was photographed at the Carlisle Circus end of Antrim Road in Belfast on the morning of the 12th July 2002 Orange Order parades. As a result of lowered tensions following the 2001 commencement of decommissioning of weapons by paramilitary organisations and the formation of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to replace the Royal Ulster Constabulary, this would effectively be the last 'Twelfth' when large numbers of British Army personnel and vehicles were deployed on the streets of Northern Ireland to help police potential parade flashpoints.



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